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GARDEN DESIGN

p.30
Outdoor Fabrics Get Caribbean Cool

p.32
Bring Home Tiki-Chic Style

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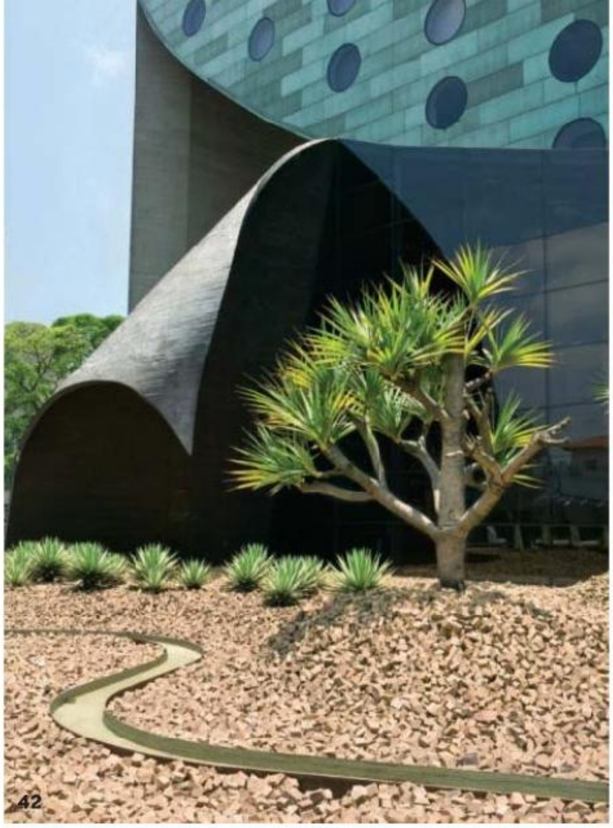

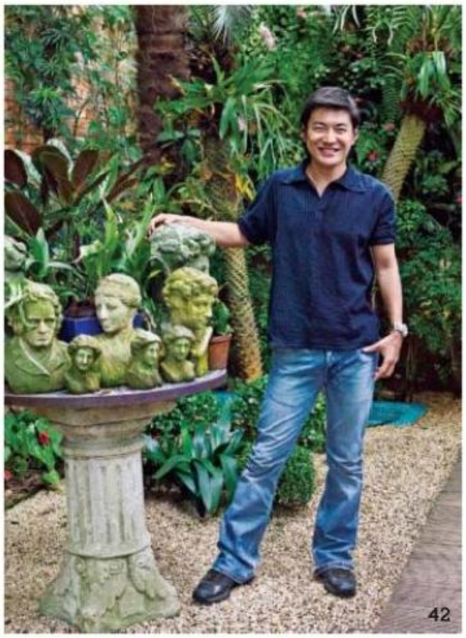

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COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali is a holistic health retreat with stunning views of its junglelike grounds. The gardens' colors, scents and tastes combine to thrill with a full sensory experience. Photography courtesy of COMO Hotels and Resorts. Story on page 54.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: LISA ROMEREIN/GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY; JON WHITTLE (2); COMO HOTELS AND RESORTS

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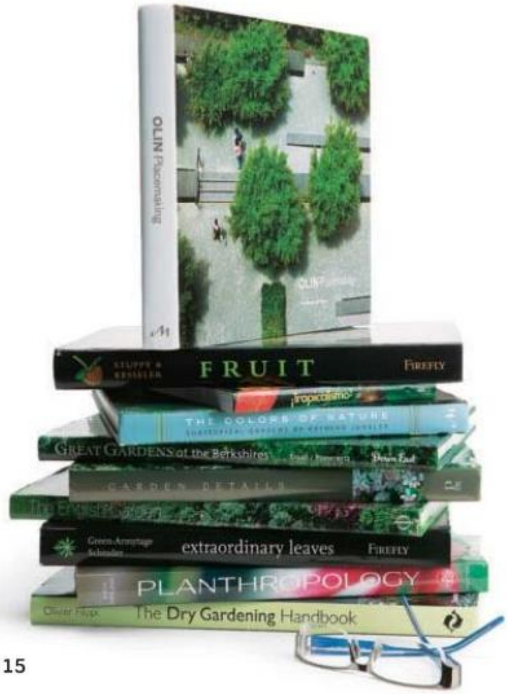

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78 **LANDSCAPE**
Strand by strand, Paula de la Cruz unravels the postmodern mash-up that is Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden. In the end, the Thai wonderland successfully combines European and Asian influences.

88 **ON DESIGN**
When party planning, designer David Stark takes a fresh approach to decorating. Topiaries of shredded paper. A tower of towels. A wall of alarm clocks. Why not?

For more, see gardendesign.com.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JON WHITTLE (2); JASON DEWEY; SHENVAL/ALAMY; COURTESY JANUS ET CIE

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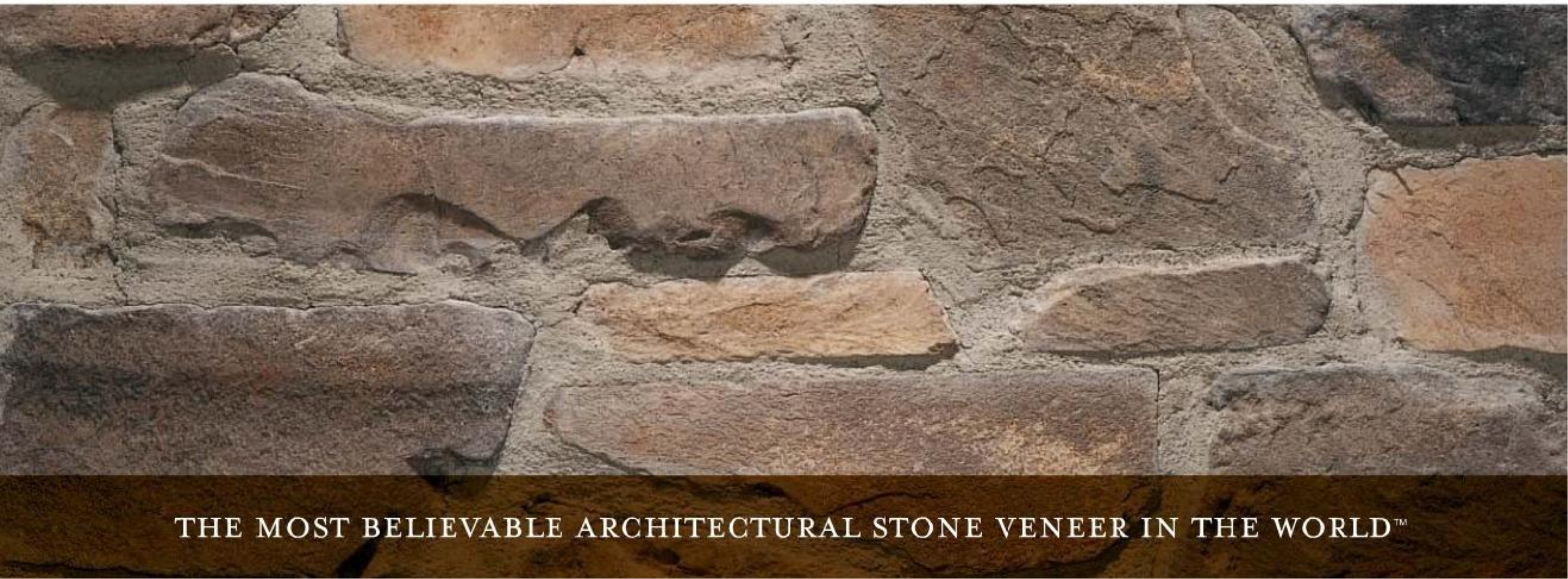

from the editors

HOT FOR TROPICS

IT WAS NEVER PART OF MY LIFE plan to live in Florida. That was the land of fantasy, filled with gators, pink houses and seashell stands, the mecca we headed to on family vacations. Packed to the limits of our trusty station wagon, we exchanged Alabama red clay for sugary white sand, and the sizzling buzz of cicadas for the hypnotic rhythm of waves. (I have a childhood photo of my brother and me standing on the beach, staring at the ocean like we're in shock — we didn't even know where to start.) Yet here I am, living in the Sunshine State, picking up palm fronds and owning more than one swimsuit, lured here to be an editor for *Garden Design* — a carrot too enticing to pass up.

I'm a Southerner for sure and undaunted by humidity and large bugs, but every time I dig a hole in the garden and watch it quickly refill with sand, I'm reminded that I'm way farther south than South. I know it's technically the subtropics, but it feels like the tropics to me — exotic-looking birds picking their way along the roadside, houseplants growing in the ground. For someone accustomed to a full four seasons and impatiens turning to mush at first frost, it's been a wonder.

Now that I've been here a few years, the tropical backdrop has become familiar, though I can't quite take it for granted — a lifetime in Zone 6 makes that impossible. I can still be startled by an anole running across the patio furniture, and I'm stumped by "What's that plant?" with disconcerting frequency. My horticulture ego has taken some licks, but on the flipside, it's exciting to realize how much there is to learn. Now that I know the difference between a pindo palm, a foxtail palm and a bottle palm, I'm a palm-tree nut. What, there's more than one type of snake plant? A revelation — now I want to collect them all! Plants I never paid much attention to because they were "hothouse flowers" I can now put in my garden and get to know better. It's like a veil has been lifted. And I confess that I'm now addicted to the heat and start whining when the thermometer reads 65.

But 80-degree December weather and a banana tree in the backyard notwithstanding, tropical locales will always possess a dreamy mystery about them. Looking at the articles in this issue — designers in Brazil (p. 42), spa gardens from around the world (p. 54), and palm trees at their very best (p. 64) — makes me want to do a little migrating.

Jenny Andrews

JENNY ANDREWS/FEATURES EDITOR

CHELSEA STICKEL

COMINGS & GOINGS

Garden Writers Association 60th Annual Meeting
PORTLAND, OR
Photo editor Chelsea Stickel connected with a host of garden photographers and went scouting for new stories on the side.

ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO
PHILADELPHIA, PA
Features editor Jenny Andrews and West Coast editor Megan Padilla reviewed exciting new gardens by landscape architects attending the American Society of Landscape Architects annual gathering.

"The Garden Metropolis" The Garden Conservancy
NEW YORK, NY
Marketing manager Valerie Jones learned how green spaces transform urban living at a seminar hosted by The Garden Conservancy and *Garden Design* in the Big Apple.

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LIFE OF THE *Party*

Garden Design & JANUS et Cie Party in Philadelphia

Garden Design joined forces with Janus et Cie and ValleyCrest to throw a lavish event at the architecturally exquisite FUEL House in the heart of old Philadelphia for the start of the 2008 American Society of Landscape Architects annual conference and EXPO. More than 600 guests from the landscape architecture and exterior design communities enjoyed cocktails and more while surrounded by stylish Janus et Cie vignettes which showcased a wide array of the most fashion-forward furnishings for outdoor living.

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1. The party in full swing **2.** Publisher Diane Turner & Kalamazoo President Pete Georgiadis **3.** Dora Kelly, Danielle England, Suzanne McLees & Brittany Bond of Janus et Cie **4 & 5.** Chic vignettes by Janus et Cie **6.** Colleen Donnelly & Michael Braden **7.** Terry Clayton & Valley Crest CEO Richard Sperber **8.** Guest & Karl Danielson of Janus et Cie

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LIFE OF THE *Party*

The Royal Oak Foundation "Seeds for Thought" Garden Lecture

A ballroom full of garden enthusiasts enjoyed a delightful presentation by one of the U.K.'s most sought-after garden designers, Jinny Blom, at The Colony Club in NYC. A champagne reception followed in which guests were treated to more insight from this highly-talented landscape star and her thoughtful creations, including the Healing Garden designed with HRH The Prince of Wales.

1. Alice Marshall, P. Allen Smith, Royal Oak Foundation Chairman Patrick Gallagher & Jinny Blom
2. Royal Oak Foundation Executive Director John Oddy & Editor Jenny Andrews

The Garden Conservancy "The Garden Metropolis" Seminars

Manhattan's elite blocked a day off on their calendars to attend this information-packed seminar on the many exciting changes happening within New York's gardens and public landscapes. From the most recent developments on the High Line project to a magnificent pictorial tour of the city's most relevant public spaces, this event had everyone in attendance inspired by the beauty of The Big Apple.

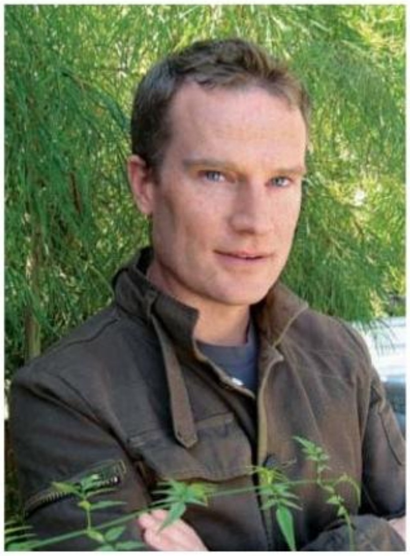
3. New York School of Interior Design **4.** High Line Project **5.** Robert Hammond, Friends of the High Line co-founder **6.** Jenny Dixon, director of the Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum **7.** Antonia Adezio, president of the Garden Conservancy **8.** Majora Carter, urban renewal expert & Fiona Watt, Chief of Forestry and Horticulture for New York City **9.** Jay McKenzie, Bonnier Group Publisher

contributors

ESCAPE HATCH

Winter is anything but dormant for our contributors.
How do they brighten their days and feed their imagination?

➤ **Leigh Ann Ledford**, *managing editor*, "Living in Florida, I am able to enjoy warm, sunshine-filled days year-round. In the winter months though, I find myself pining for snowy landscapes and chilly air, planning trips to wintry destinations and affixing snowflake decals to my windowpanes."



◄ **Jason Dewees**, *writer*, Reading Palms, p. 64. "I'm looking forward to luxuriating amid some 27,000 books at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park. This treasure trove offers a ticket to balmier seasons and places, especially since our eco-modesty has diminished the glow of jetting to the tropics."

▲ **Lee Anne White**, *photographer*, Reading Palms, p. 64. "I buy bouquets of flowers to brighten my office and then spend the afternoon photographing them in my studio. It provides a welcome break from the computer and helps keep my vision fresh."

▲ **Zach Stovall**, *photographer*, Blissed Out (St. Lucia), p. 54. "During my winter travels to the Caribbean, I keep an eye out for lush tropical gardens to inspire my own outdoor retreat. Jamaican boutique resorts such as The Caves, Goldeneye and Rockhouse Hotel are among my favorites, with lush stands of heliconias and red ginger shading paths, and architecture of Jamaican cut stone."

▲ **Lisa Cregan**, *writer*, On Design, p. 88. "Come February in northern Illinois, I desperately miss the brilliant color of my garden outside my office window. The cardinal who lives here year-round seems oblivious to the snow. I love to see that brilliant flash of red against the frozen tundra of my little fenced-in yard. I watch for him. He brings me hope."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CHELSEA STICKEL; COURTESY JASON DEWEES; KAREN LENZ; COURTESY LISA CREGAN; COURTESY ZACH STOVALL

GARDEN DESIGN GREEN AWARDS

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Category ______

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ELIGIBILITY:

Only designers and companies owning designs are eligible to enter this awards program. Entries must highlight key "green" components.

SEE PAGE 14 FOR OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

GARDEN DESIGN GREEN AWARDS

OFFICIAL RULES

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fresh

WALTER LAMB BRONZE COLLECTION ❦ MOSS CHAIR ❦ ONE TO WATCH: GARY GRAGG ❦ WINTER READS

STUART WATSON

a classic is reborn When director of brand opportunity Stephen Elton, along with fellow staffers at Brown Jordan, learned that lounge chairs from Walter Lamb's collection were fetching up to $13,000 on eBay, they saw a golden opportunity.

Then based in El Monte, California, Brown Jordan originally manufactured the Walter Lamb Collection in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Today, Elton calls the collection's organic, curvilinear style, which Lamb wrought from bronze and copper tubing and cotton rope that he salvaged from sunken ships in Pearl Harbor, "a midcentury classic." Elton considers the Lamb collection "right there with Richard Schultz's 1966 Collection," which includes lounges and chairs that were originally designed for Florence Knoll and her Florida home.

The Walter Lamb Collection is currently included in a traveling

Above: It's hard to tell the difference between Brown Jordan's new Walter Lamb Collection and the original. The new line includes dining chairs and a round table and is at home on a modernist perch overlooking Los Angeles.

exhibition organized by the Orange County Museum of Art called "Birth of the Cool," which frames modernism, as California would have it, through the lenses of art, music, architecture and design. Anna Brouwer, the museum's exhibitions and publications manager, explains why the pieces from the collection (which Lamb came up with while living in Hawaii), is significant to the show. Says Brouwer, it "embraces a classic modern aesthetic through organic form and postwar material." Perhaps more importantly, Brouwer adds, "It extended the living space in California by bringing indoor furniture outside."

Knowing the market was ripe for a high-profile midcentury design that drew from the company's vast design archives, Brown Jordan reissued the Walter Lamb Collection this past fall. With the exception of a few updates for the sake of durability, including steel re-enforcements and nylon cording in lieu of cotton, the new collection — which features tables, dining and lounge chairs, and an ottoman — is virtually identical to the old. Without question, the most notable update to the collection is the price tag. At $3,365, the price for the reissued *chaise longue* is a far cry from the soaring prices the original can garner at auction.

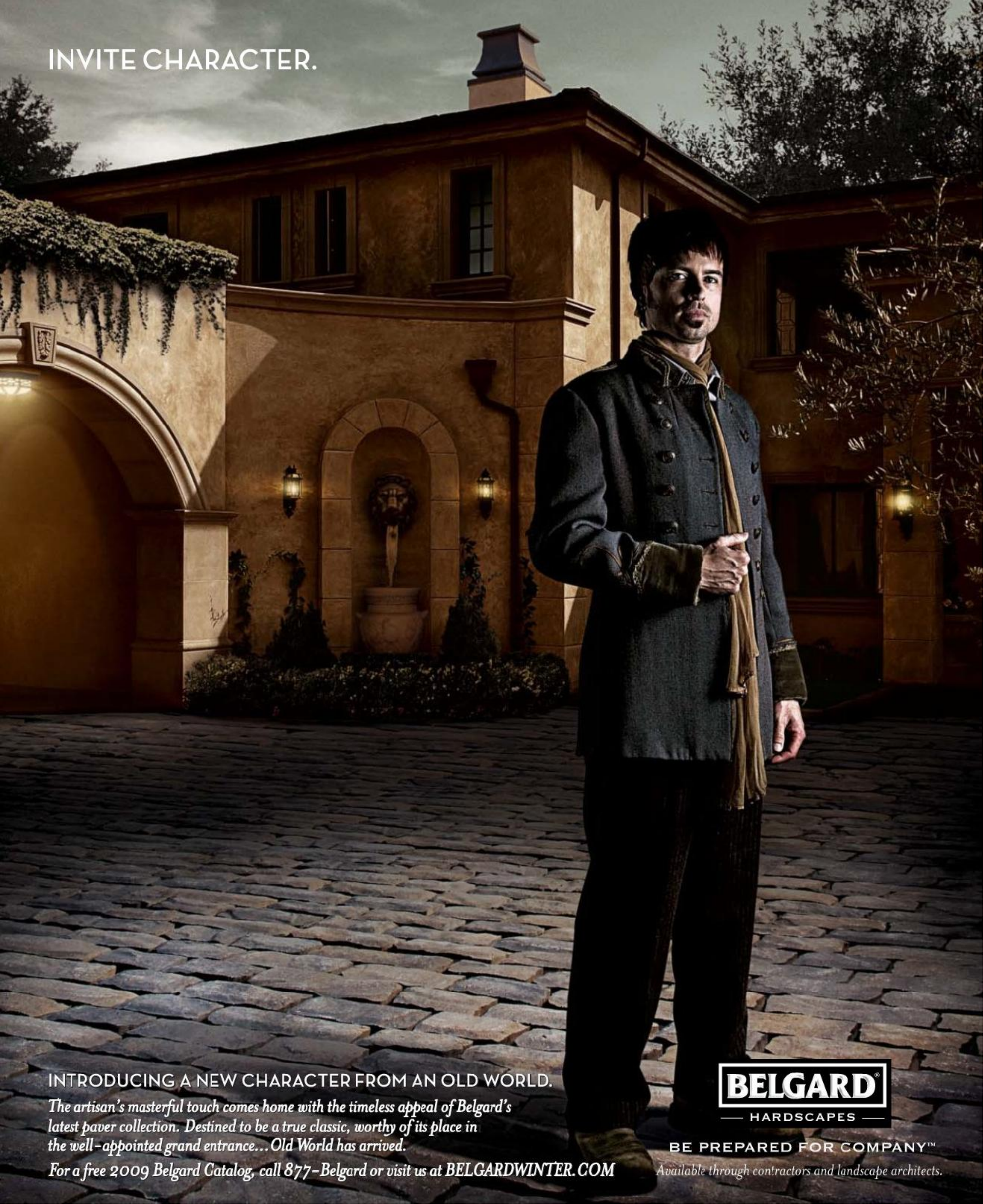
To preserve exclusivity, the collection will be available only to the trade or at Gump's in San Francisco. Elton is pleased to note an overwhelming response from the press and furniture people. "It only helps that there is a market" — and a hot one at that — "for iconic midcentury modern designs." Prices range from $965 to $3,365. 800-743-4252, brownjordan.com. Or see Gump's, San Francisco, 800-766-7628, gumps.com. — Damaris Colhoun; Photography by Stuart Watson for Brown Jordan

Above: Brown Jordan's Walter Lamb collection is lauded for its organic, architectural style. The wrapped nylon cording brings a soft, textural element to the pieces' articulated brass structure.

NEW TWISTS ON CLASSICS

- Jasper van Grootel's Voltaire 1 chair revamps the French bergère by cladding one in foamlike rubber. Even with a tufted back, scrolled details and nailhead studs, this frilly fixture can face the elements and is available in colors such as cobalt blue, orange, pink, yellow and plum. $1,950 at The Conran Shop. 866-755-9079, conranusa.com
- Thanks to Chicago-area design studio Prairie Arts, Teco is back. Original Teco ceramics, which flowered during the Prairie style movement of Frank Lloyd Wright and others, are rare and pricey today. With its Teco Art Pottery Collection, Prairie Arts has revived five more Teco vases (for a total of 12 in its collection), whose architectural forms stay true to their predecessors. $60 to $195. 800-594-3148, prairie-arts.com
- French modern hits the garden with Jean-Marie Massaud's new Seashell collection for Dedon, featuring woven, stackable dining chairs that are open and light, yet also sturdy, and Dedon's first nonwoven design, the Satellite table. Made from HPL (high-pressure laminate), the Satellite's smooth, bulbous base has a George Jetson vibe. Price not yet available. 800-245-2687, janusetcie.com

See these products and more at gardendesign.com/fresh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Organic Matters

STORYBOOK PARTY

When L.A. designer and taste-maker Kyle Schuneman of Live Well Designs sets his table, you shouldn't be surprised if Alice and the Mad Hatter show up. "I found that when designing this intimate party," Schuneman says, "I needed less than I thought to make it feel bountiful and ethereal." He used simple mason jars as lemonade glasses and fruit that he cut from a palm tree in his backyard to create a unique flower arrangement that gives a great pop. "My main goal was to really play around with scale and texture; with the oversize classic lanterns and the different-shaped chairs, it really made the environment feel intimate while giving a wink and a nod to things of the past."

But it is Schuneman's moss chairs that truly set the stage. "What I wanted to explore with my chairs was the idea of pairing this unusual 'fabric' with a chair with very classic lines. I love the idea of mixing those two elements, and I think it creates a whimsical feeling almost as a design pun or quip." It might seem that this look isn't practical, but it is. Says Schuneman: "By laying a very simple white cushion on the seat, you create a memory and a signature style." For more information, see kyleschuneman .com. — Megan Padilla

SEE SOURCEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION, PAGE 72

JOE SCHMELZER

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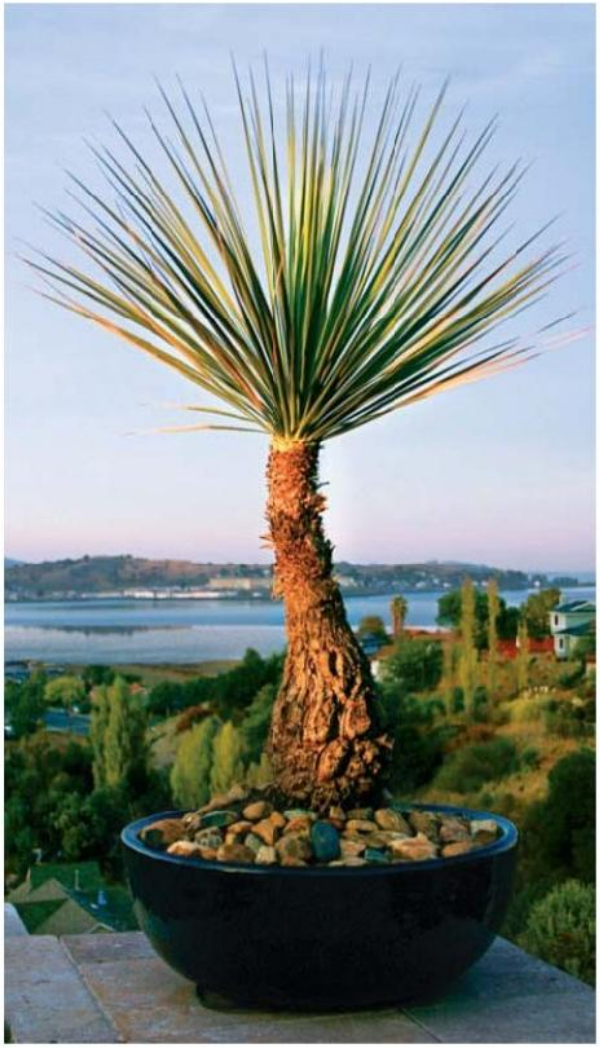
One to Watch

GARY GRAGG

Bay Area-native Gary Gragg (right) has turned his passion for plants into a new HGTV show, *Superscapes*, set to premier this winter. See projects such as this compact San Rafael, California, backyard (far right) transformed into a Mediterranean getaway. Gary insisted on using one of his last ponytail palms in this project (below).



"The Bay Area can stand in for almost any climate zone — desert, prairie, Northeastern seaboard or even Japan," says Bay Area-born-and-raised horticulturist, landscape designer and now television host Gary Gragg when discussing *Superscapes*, premiering on HGTV early this year. Read on to find out how Gragg, owner of Golden Gate Palms & Exotics nursery, translated his lifelong passion for landscaping and everything horticultural into a television show that he hopes will hook younger viewers into seeing garden design as cool. — MP

Q: Tell me about your early inspiration. Where did your passion for plants come from?

A: As a kid, I'd go to the nursery with my dad who was landscaping around the house. I loved the jungle plants and also the cactus, but he didn't want to plant them. Finally, my dad allowed me to create my own cactus garden. Even though it was small, I'd sit in the middle and pretend I was in the desert. By high school, I had become a plant junkie and spent any money I had on them. Buying plants is still my weakness.

Q: What is unique about your nursery, Golden Gate Palms?

A: I search high and low for rare and hard-to-find species to sell at the nursery. For instance, I found the prized ponytail palm (*Beaucarnea stricta*) in a backyard nursery and bought all that they had.

Q: How did you make the jump from passionate plantsman and landscape designer to television host?

A: I never thought there was enough or the right kind of garden content on TV. I wanted gardening to look cool. It was through Golden Gate Palms that I was contacted to do a few HGTV shows. After working on them, I bought a camera and decided to make my own demo. The subject of my film was my exhibit "Livin' Cheap in Baja" that won Best of Show at the 2006 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. The exhibit featured a busted-down VW van, a protagonist named Joe and an imagined narrative of life in Baja. I filmed the entire process from installation to tear-down, and it was this footage that sold HGTV on bringing me on.

Q: How is your show,* Superscapes*, different?

A: We show the relationship between the designer and the homeowner, who is working with a real budget. The projects include hardscaping, plant material and furnishings, and are installed for permanence. They are shown from inception to completion — no pretend overnight makeovers. We're trying to promote diversity of gardens and styles, and I feel like I'm getting a message out.

COURTESY GARY GRAGG (3)

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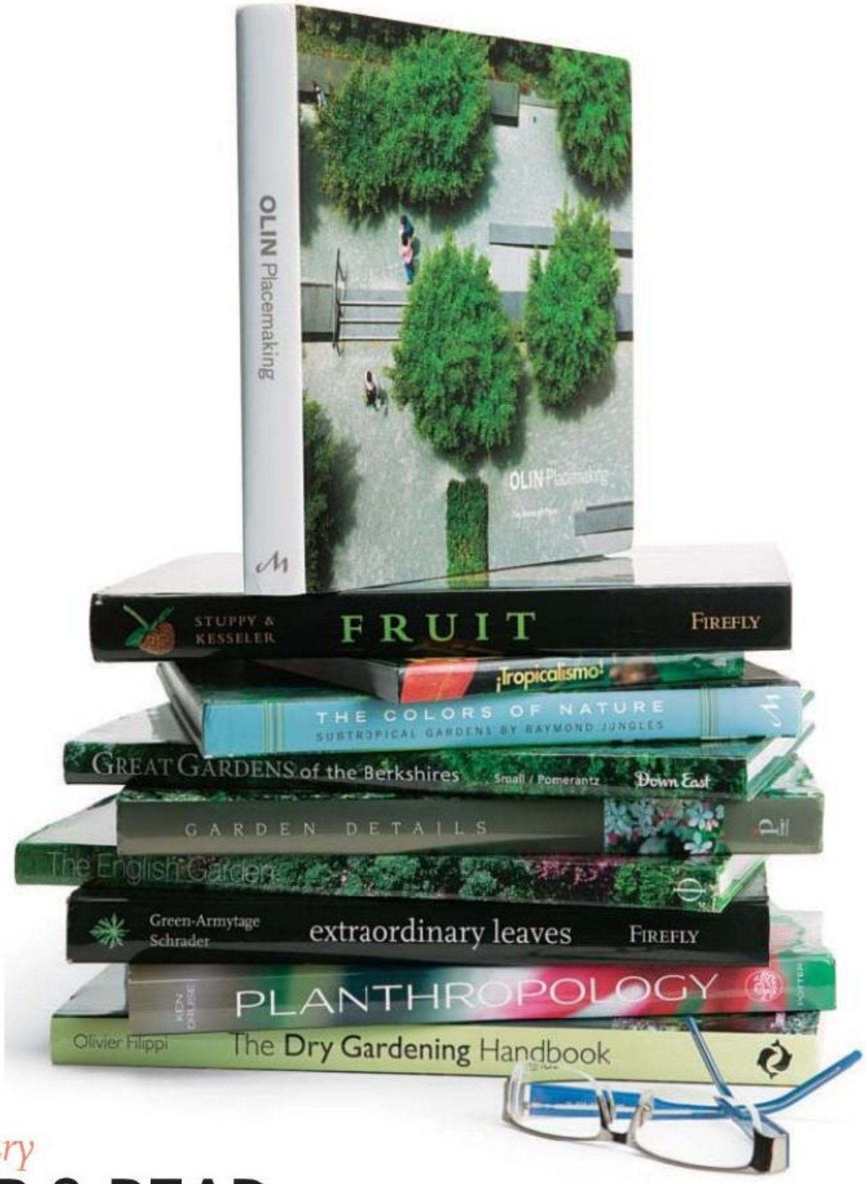


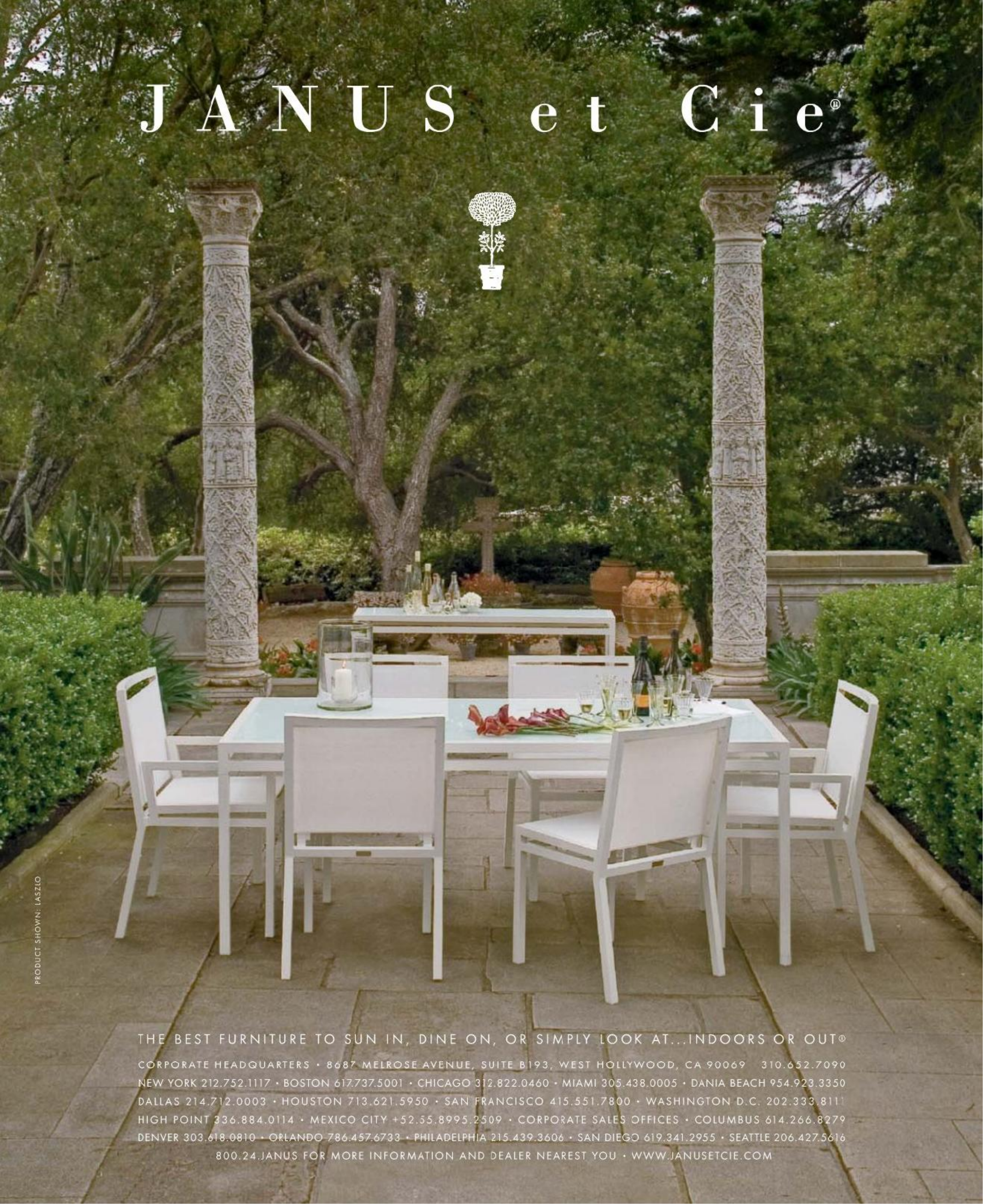
Garden Library

CURL UP & READ

If winter has you trapped indoors, then now is the time to warm up with the season's newest titles filled with garden inspiration for any time of year. — MP

Who can resist the tropic's lush and exotic offerings this time of year? *The Colors of Nature: Subtropical Gardens* (Monacelli Press) by Raymond Jungles, who was mentored by the master of modern tropical Roberto Burle Marx from 1981-1994, takes us on a tour of more than 20 residential projects mostly around the South Florida area. *¡Tropicalismo! Spice Up Your Garden With Cannas, Bananas and 93 Other Eye-Catching Tropical Plants* (Timber Press) by Pam Baggett is a thoughtful, well-organized, flip-through idea book of tropical plants. Ken Druse's 17th book weaves a beautiful web of nature in *Planthropology: The Myths, Mysteries and Miracles of My Garden Favorites* (Clarkson Potter). French nurseryman Olivier Filippi shares his 20-plus years of experience with drought-resistant plants in *The Dry Gardening Handbook: Plants and Practices for a Changing Climate* (Thames & Hudson). Two single-topic books about fruits and leaves are so engaging and astonishingly illustrated that they earned a place on this list. *Fruit: Edible, Inedible, Incredible* (Firefly Books) is pure poetry. Wolfgang Stuppy deftly explains the formation, development and demise of fruit, while Rob Kesseler's use of special technology to obtain images merits long examination. The collaboration between writer Dennis Schrader and photographer Stephen Green-Armytage on *Extraordinary Leaves* (Firefly Books) offers an abundance of color, texture and shape that will forever change your view of foliage. The title of *Garden Details: Ideas, Inspiration, Great Garden Spaces* by Marg Thornell and Kate Thornell (Images Publishing) is an idea book that is also practical. *Great Gardens of the Berkshires* (Down East Books) by Virginia Small tells the stories of the gardens in the Berkshire Hills, which gained popularity as a summer playground for New York City's elite around the turn of the 20th century. See 100 gardens dating from the 16th century to the present as illustrated via tapestries, oil paintings, stained glass and photography in *The English Garden* (Phaidon Press). To delve into spaces that show how we live outdoors today, don't miss *Olin Placemaking* (Monacelli Press), with an introduction by John R. Stilgoe, the first monograph on this pre-eminent landscape architecture and design firm featuring projects that span the globe.

JON WHITTLE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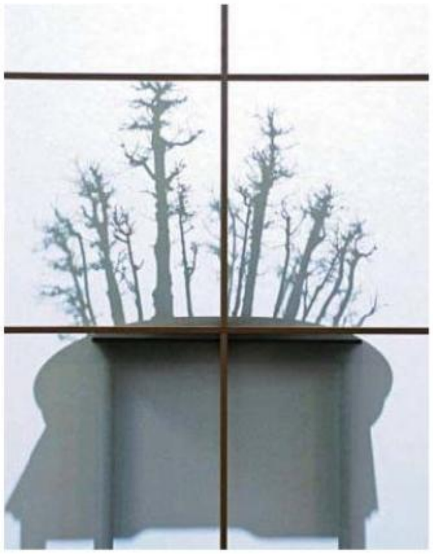
ORCHID TROVE

There's a new treasure in the Sierra Madre — an orchid collection that revels in the rich diversity of south-of-the-border flora. A star player in the Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens, the collection is housed in the George and Mary Ellen Holstein Mexican Orchid and Vanilla Conservatory, which opened its doors last year, and is only the beginning of big things to come.

The collection is the brainchild of the mother and son team of Betty and Bob Price, U.S. expats who fell head over heels for the native landscape after moving to Puerto Vallarta in 2004. Day trips into the mountains revealed such an incredible wealth of plant species that the Prices were inspired to take on the Herculean task of building a botanical garden from the ground up. But the gardens, which opened in 2005, and the orchid collection aren't just about beauty; a key component is conservation. At one time, even the trees of Puerto Vallarta's suburbs fairly dripped with orchids. But the black-market business of wild collecting (shades of *Orchid Fever*) and habitat destruction have taken a heavy toll.

The Prices' mission to save the orchids of Mexico will use all the tools in the box: education, offering locals economic alternatives, setting up responsible nursery production of orchids and re-establishment of species in the wild. The Prices' ambitious long-range goal is to expand the collection into the National Orchid Collection of Mexico, envisioned as the most-comprehensive collection of native Mexican orchids in the world, with hundreds of species on display. But a good first step is to make people love them enough to save them. A visit to the conservatory just might do the trick.

Peak bloom time for the orchids is December through May, and daily guided tours of the botanical garden are offered during high season. It's also a hot spot for birding. For more information, see vallartabotanicalgardensac.org.— Jenny Andrews



Go Now

WINTERTIME INSPIRATION

For gardeners, winter is the perfect time to look to the past and toward the future for inspiration. The Chicago Botanic Garden's **Winter Bonsai Show**, Jan. 31 through Feb. 1, has chosen pine, bamboo and plum, "the three friends of winter" in Japanese tradition, as well as deciduous bonsai trees in their winter silhouettes. Scroll writing, storytelling and a Lunar New Year flower market are also included in this Asian-themed weekend, demonstrating the relevance of past traditions. "Sustainable Spaces. Beautiful Places" is the theme of the 2009 **Northwest Flower & Garden Show** in Seattle, Feb. 18-22. North America's second-largest garden show will feature "Green Living" products, along with seminars focusing on the best sustainability, inspirational and achievable display gardens, creative recycling options and best plant picks for use in the Northwest. One to watch: Rebecca Cole, whose innovative display garden will be every bit as stylish as it is green. For more information, see chicagobotanic.org and gardenshow.com. — Carolyn D. Bennett

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY PUERTO VALLARTA BOTANICAL GARDENS (2); COURTESY CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

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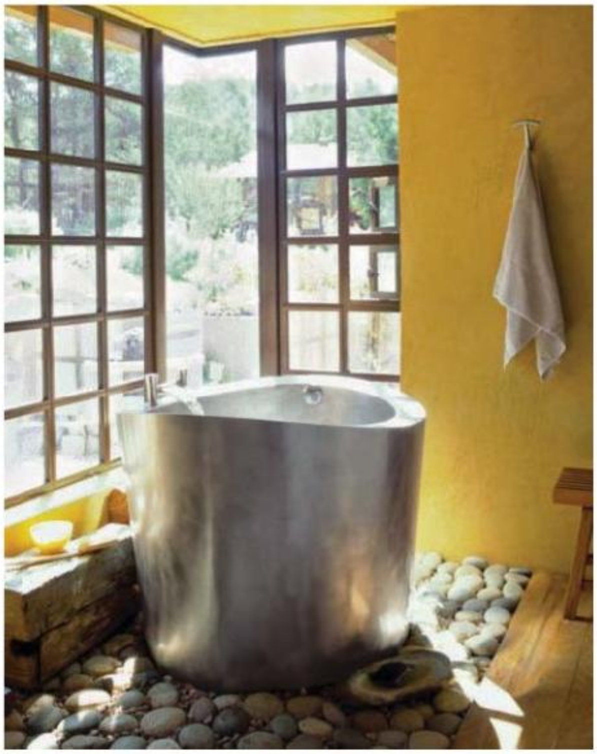
STORY BY DAMARIS COLHOUN

➤ ORGANIC SERENITY

Expanding on the popular Overscale Candles he designed for B&B Italia, Jean-Marie Massaud recently debuted his Overscale Flames. Taller and more sculptural, the Flames are designed to create ambience on the ground, not on the table. Use these ceramic, oblong forms to bring a flicker of light and a cool, modern serenity to your outdoor spa. $2,385. 800-872-1697, bebitalia.com

◄ THE MULTITASKER

Light, mobile and effective, Dedon's Summer Cloud Chaise Lounge is aptly named. The comfy lounge and personal tray conveniently swivel beneath a curvilinear shade, deftly blocking the sun from any angle. $6,308. 800-245-2687, janusetcie.com



➤ SOAKING EXTRAVAGANCE

The crown jewel of the at-home spa is a decadent soaking tub. Whether you want yours perched on a mountain or nestled in marble, Diamond Spas of Frederick, Colorado, expertly fabricates custom soaking tubs of all shapes and sizes. For something special, check out their earthy, elegant copper spas. Japanese soaking tub, approximately $9,000. (Prices vary depending on size, installation, material, etc.) 800-951-7727, diamondspas.com

FAR LEFT: CHRISTOPHE DUGIED/DEDON

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find inspiration at brownjordan.com

➤ COOL, CALM, COLLECTED
A little urbanity does a spa good. Take the modular Zofa Chaise Lounge, whose design was inspired by the geometry of a city skyline. Suspended by powder-coated aluminum frames, the sleek seating modules can be arranged to cutomize your lounge area. Starting at $3,925. 800.245.2687, janusetcie.com

▲ LIGHTEN UP
Thanks to an innovative construction, VITEO's Sun Shade by STRUCTURELAB turns the cumbersome task of opening an umbrella into a leisurely sport. Supported from above, not below, the curved sail swings gracefully open with barely any effort once a mechanism is released — an action that is actually fun. Use this unique shade to bring dynamism and movement to wide-open areas. Prices start at $1,800. 011-43-34-532-0662, viteo.at

➤ ALL FIRED UP
This fall at Maison & Objet, the Paris trade show devoted to the best and the brightest in design, the garden fires were raging. The trend is clear that in the modern outdoor space, fire is as essential as water. EcoSmart Fire's new Tower, by architect Celeste Dell'Anna and designer Simona Righi, gives this environmentally friendly flame that burns nonpolluting alcohol an architectural quality. $4480. 310-914-3335, ecosmartfire.com

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CARIBBEAN CHIC

Fabrics inspired by the land and sea add tropical flair

STORY BY JASON CHAMPION ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON WHITTLE

CUSHION & BOLSTER
This 27-inch repeating-pattern octopus print from Duralee proves its sea legs are even stronger on land. See all five colorways on the Web; search for pattern 20851. $46 per yard. 800-275-3872, duralee.com

SQUARE PILLOW
Missoni splashes a rainbow in classic Italian style onto Sunbrella fabric (Rainbow Stripe Multi). To the trade. 212-355-7186, starkfabric.com

SMALL PILLOW
Mississippi artist Vicki Carroll puts her spin on tropical. Sold as finished pillows in a variety of sizes. Pillow as shown, $43. 800-544-4438, magnoliacasual.com

BOLSTER PILLOWS
The timeless beauty of Island Coral from Perennials' Paradise Found collection finds a home on these bolster pillows (shown in Geranium Red and Scuba Do). To the trade. 888-322-4773, perennialsfabrics.com

LARGE FRINGED PILLOW
Duralee's Pavillion III offers this woven outdoor textile called Pool/Indigo (Style 14990), shown in Bermuda. Two-inch fringe trim (7227-72 in Blue Green) softens the edges. Fabric is $88.50 per yard. Trim is $28 per yard. 800-275-3872, duralee.com

BALL PILLOW
Chella channels the electric green of the tropics in a woven pattern called Spiral Matelasse. Shown in Kiwi. To the trade. 805-560-8400, chellatextiles.com

SHEER DRAPE AND GLASS TRIM
Cover it up with Chella's open-mesh Raffia Lino (9100-21) in Alabaster. The opalized quartz tassel fringe trim called Lifesaver, shown in Thistle is part of The Finishing Touch trim collection. To the trade. 805-560-8400; chellatextiles.com

SEE SOURCEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION, PAGE 72

emu
EMU Re-trouvé Collection, design by Patricia Urquiola
Photo Tom Vack, Kew Gardens London, February 2007
EMU USA INC, 1-800.502.5749, info@emuretail.com, www.emuretail.com

garden gourmet

TROPICAL CHIC

Deck it out—Polynesian style

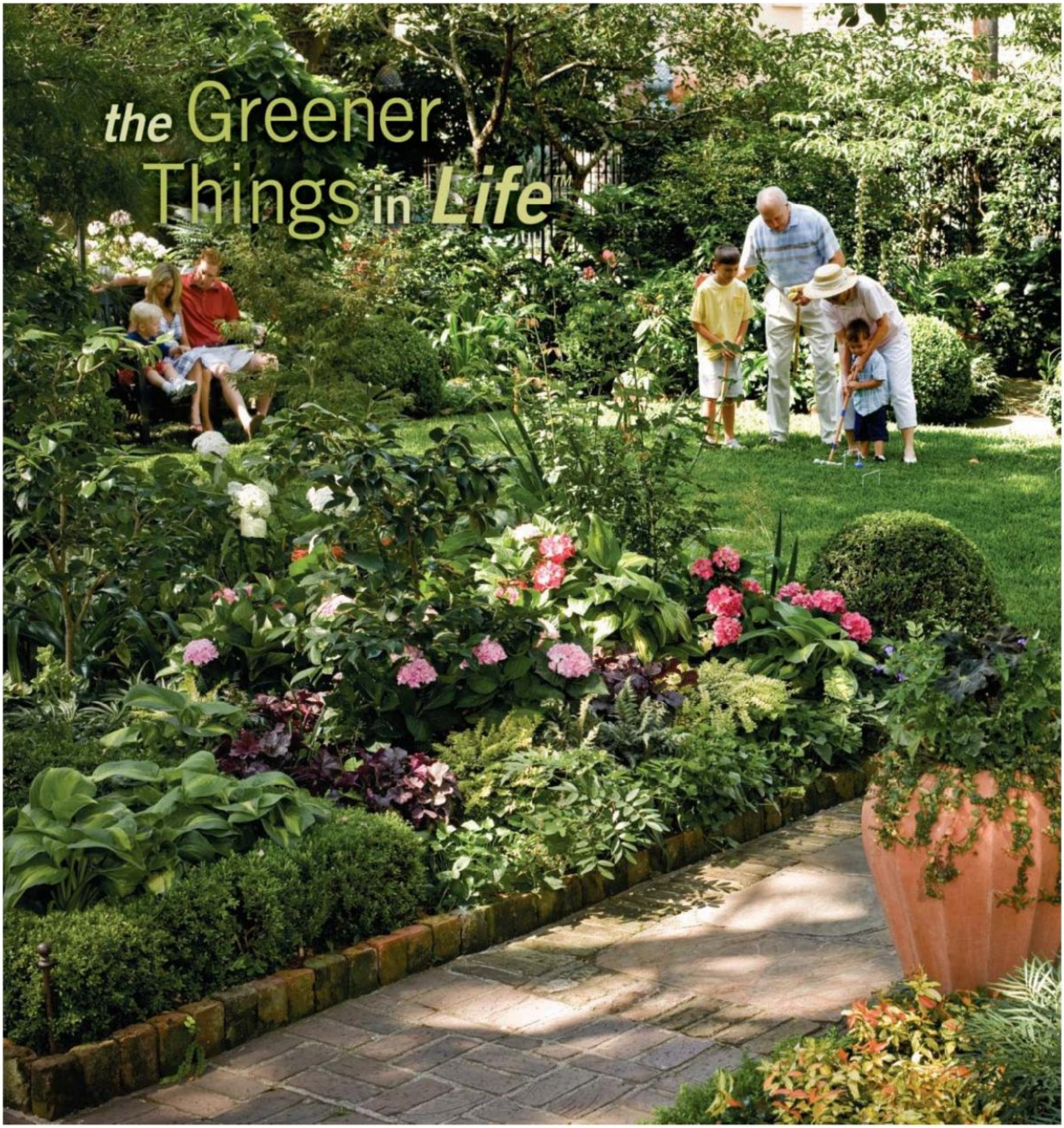
STORY BY LAUREN GRYMES

While your back was turned, die-hard lovers of midcentury tiki have kept its nostalgic drumbeat alive. If you can't get to Duke's Waikiki in Honolulu for sunset, or if you live well outside the 23rd parallel, you can still join the party. Check out ways we found to infuse chichi tropicalismo into your outdoor entertaining. And while the debate lingers regarding which American wanderlust (the Trader, as in Vic, or the Beachcomber, as in Don) stirred up the first mai tai, why not kick back in your own island-themed hut to enjoy a few? *Maitai,* by the way, is Tahitian for "good."

◀ MAI TAI 'EM
Groove a cool tiki vibe by pouring your tropical libations into these hot Fashion and Fire glasses by Austin, Texas, artist Jacob Luken Sheafe. The Wrap and Rake glass is available in an assortment of shades, including ruby (shown here) and blue moon, and is dishwasher-approved. $40 for cocktail style glass. Order by special request at 512-903-7848, fashionandfire.com.

➤ BAR LUAU
The stainless-steel Viking Outdoor Refreshment Center — with its sink, cutting board, insulated bottle bath, ice bin, storage and waste container — makes a compact mai tai-making command post. Shown in the built-in 41-inch-wide model, it's also offered with brass trim and in a portable model. Built-in priced from about $3,150. 888-845-4641, vikingrange.com

TOP: JON WHITTLE



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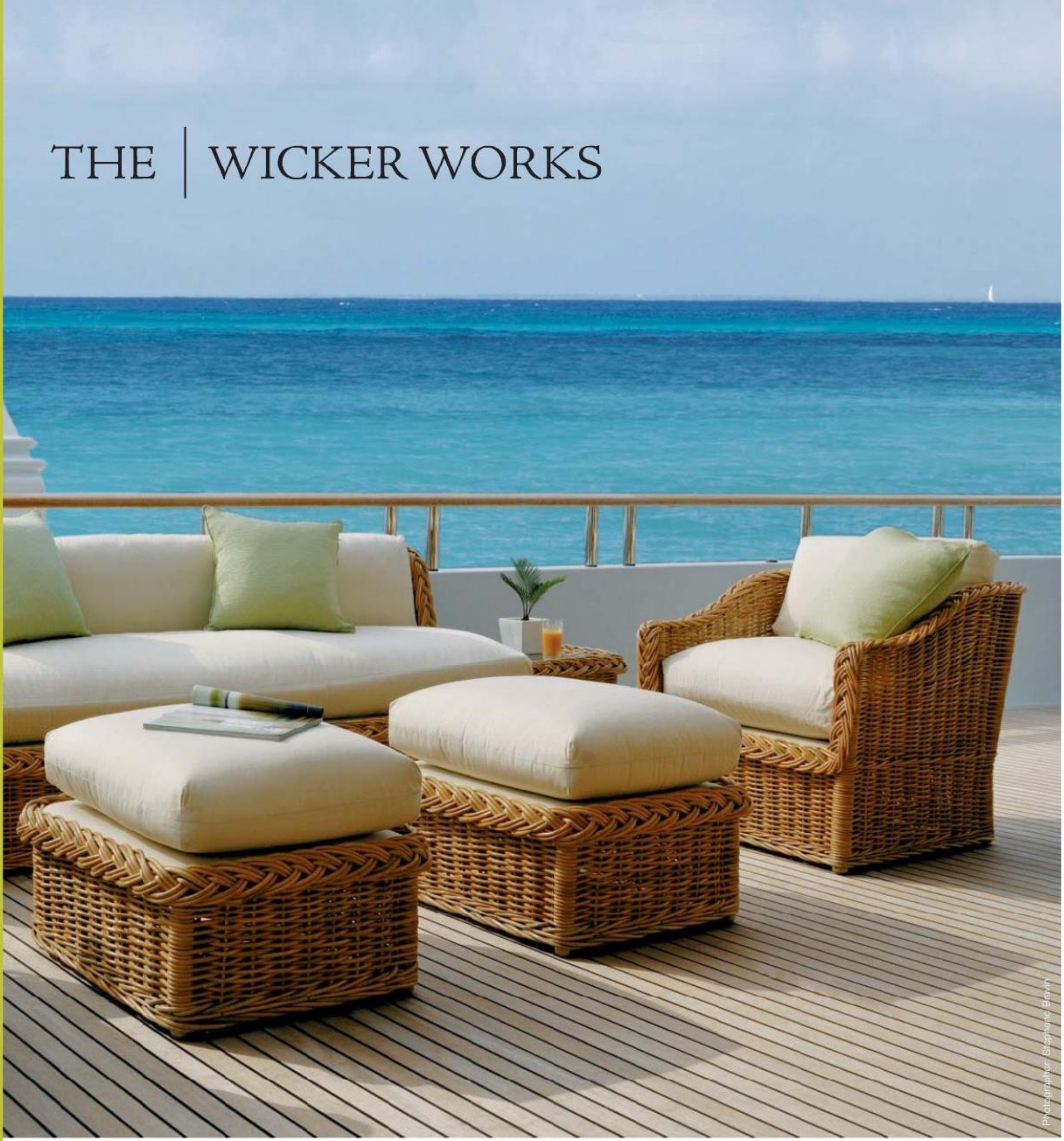
▼ JUNGLE LOVE
We are digging the funky jungle-inspired fused-glass plates by Vancouver, Washington, artist Eric Argo. The Tiki Bamboo Plates are offered in a variety of sizes and color combos, and they range in price from $48 for the 6-inch squares to $88 for 10-inch squares. 305-293-8822, keywestglass.com

▼ HIGH LIGHTS (BOTTOM)
Every luau looks better by firelight. The Lympos torch, with its elevated stainless-steel bowl and wooden handle, is high-style tiki. Shown with the optional Baso wall-mounted hook (floor stands also available), it runs on regular tiki-lamp oil and stands 61 inches high. By Flöz Design for Blomus. About $116 for torch and $21 for hook. blomus.com

▲ BIG ROAST
We're not suggesting this as an alternate to the *umu* (traditional Polynesian pit barbecue), but there is ample room on the DCS by Fisher & Paykel Appliances Traditional Grill rotisserie to create a backyard feast. The brushed stainless-steel barbecuing machine, with integrated rotisserie burner, a heavy-duty rotisserie motor and 3500 BTU burner, is available in LPG or natural gas and built-in or cart applications. $4,849. 888-936-7872, dcsappliances.com

TOP RIGHT: JON WHITTLE



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living green

BESIDE STILL WATERS

A project in Aspen goes green from the ground up

STORY BY JENNY ANDREWS ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON DEWEY

AT THE INTERSECTION OF RUSTIC AND chic, The North Face and Christian Dior, lies Aspen, Colorado. Originally a working city of silver miners, it has become a haven for well-heeled snow-skiing devotees and celebrities from Clint Eastwood to Lance Armstrong looking for a paparazzi break. Surrounded on three sides by mountains, it is nestled neatly in the wilderness, and the natural beauty is one of the big draws.

Paradoxically, the exodus to the hills has put serious stresses on the very nature that sparked it. That's what happens in a town only 3.5 miles square — at some point there's really nowhere else to go, or to build. The challenge is to balance the needs of an active citizenry with the protection of the landscape.

That was the situation facing Valerie Alexander Yaw, principal with Aspen-based landscape architecture firm Bluegreen, when she began a project on the eastern edge of town, in an area along the Roaring Fork River called Stillwater. Situated near the North Star Nature Preserve (an area of tremendous biological diversity affiliated with the Nature Conservancy), the neighborhood, which has large lots and steep topography, has more in common with the preserve than the town proper, including stands of trees hundreds of years old. Alexander Yaw calls the area a "little gem in the valley." Of particular concern at the Stillwater location was a colony of Ponderosa pines some 100 years old, somewhat unusual for the region, especially for their venerable age and size.

On Alexander Yaw's green to-do list, "site preservation comes first," and for this project, it was fortuitous that she was able to work closely with

At the Stillwater project in Aspen, landscape architecture firm Bluegreen took leftover stone used to face the house and recycled it to line the man-made stream that runs under the walkway between the house and guesthouse. The stream and its connected pool also serve to collect runoff and provide irrigation.

Papaver 'Ruffled Patty' PP18609
Melittis melissophyllum 'Royal Velvet Distinction' PP13233
Helleborus 'Raspberry Mousse'
Begonia sutherlandii
Sorbaria sorbifolia 'Sem' PP16336
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Right: A path winds past plantings of perennials and connects a series of terraces that are home to a reflecting pool, a dining area complete with a fire pit and outdoor kitchen, and a spa with stainless-steel "pokey poles" **(below)**, an art piece created by Bluegreen as an abstraction of the forest beyond and a handy place to hang robes.

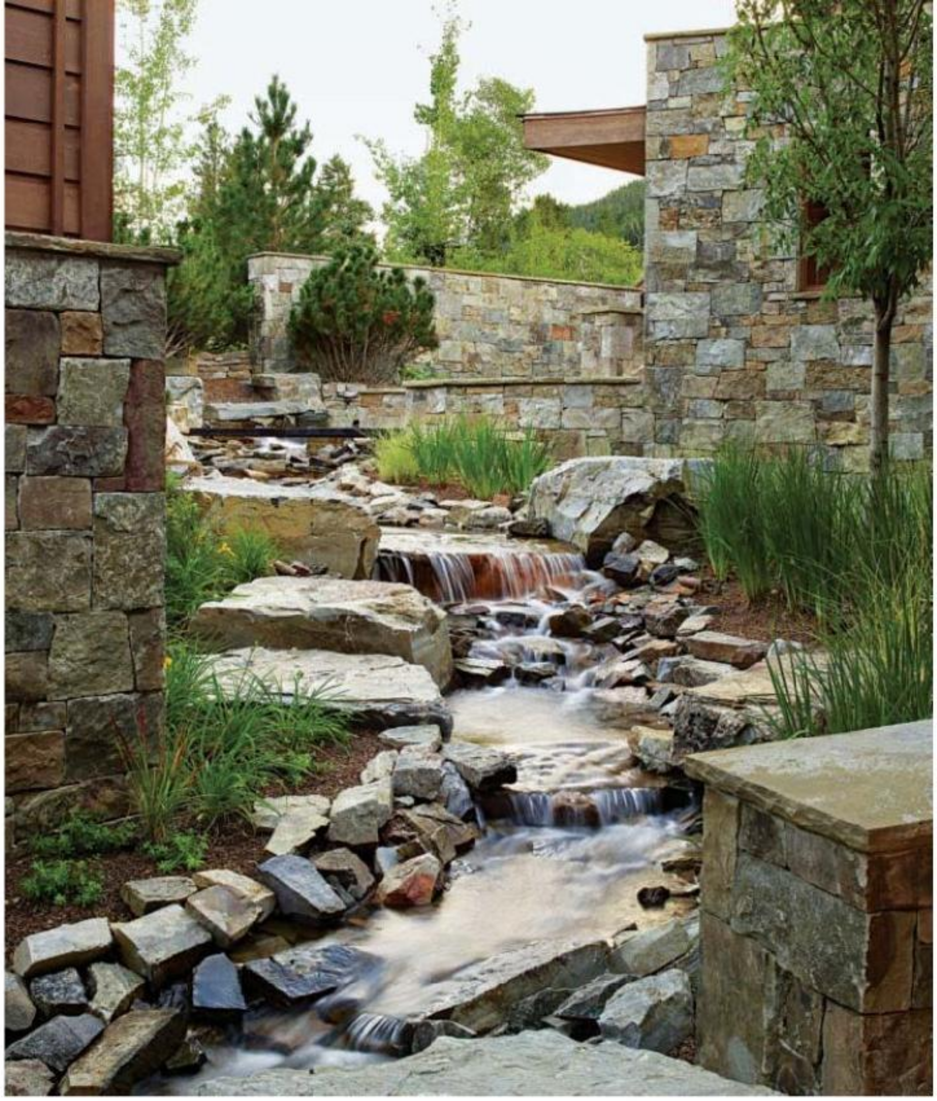
the architect (Bill Poss of Poss Architecture + Planning) and the contractor from the outset. And by happy coincidence, the client very much had green in mind. As Jason Jones, consulting arborist with Aspen Tree Service, remembers it, "The homeowner said, 'Let's do this right,' which hardly ever happens." Despite having one of the most progressive tree-preservation codes in the country, even Aspen can fall short when it comes to protecting large, fragile trees if faced with homeowners who aren't sensitive. As Jones explains, all it takes to lose an awe-inspiring stately specimen is one root-severing trench for irrigation or a walkway. In this case, the client was even willing to make design changes and reduce square footage in the interest of preserving the forest.

While protecting the natural surroundings is paramount, the constructed parts of a project present endless possibilities for Bluegreen to be green. According to Alexander Yaw, approaching an integrated house-and-garden project like Stillwater from a sustainability perspective means thinking about every layer in the design process, right down to the tiniest details, "from vision through implementation, including project goals, materials specifications, construction methods, and even maintenance and user manuals." This runs the gamut from siting trees to assist with heating and cooling the house, to channeling runoff, to irrigation rain sensors, to the concrete mix used in the foundation. Some of it "isn't very sexy," as Alexander Yaw puts it, but the behind-the-scenes eco-sound elements can have a big impact on the total picture and present some interesting design opportunities.

For example, after construction, unused building materials are usually hauled away to the dump, but at Stillwater, the leftover stone veneer from the house was recycled into a bed for the man-made stream that runs under a walkway between the main house and guesthouse. Existing granite boulders were integrated into the terraces, not only reducing the energy needed to remove them, but also anchoring the house and garden in the landscape. And for Bluegreen, aesthetic considerations are always on a parallel course with sustainability — the stones in the stream and the boulders are beautiful as well as smart.

Water is a key component in the garden, and Bluegreen has thought of everything here as well. Runoff from rain and snowmelt is channeled into a stream that empties into a small pool at the edge of the bluff overlooking a large natural pond and wetland, visually connecting the built landscape with the natural one. The water also cools the house in the summer and provides an irrigation resource. The plantings include many natives, such as aspen and amelanchier, and revegetation was an important part of post-construction. The limited plant palette at 9,000-feet elevation also meant Bluegreen could be "playful with the plant material," says Alexander Yaw, and nonnatives are part of the mix, though the selection was carefully tailored to microclimates around the house (which minimizes maintenance).

But living in Aspen is also about reveling in



Left: Water and stone are key elements at Stillwater. The large granite boulders are natural to the site and were integrated as design elements, rather than being hauled away. **Below:** *Bergenia*, *Heuchera* and *Artemisia* bring color, texture and toughness.

your surroundings. At Stillwater, the house and garden were sited for maximum viewing pleasure (from windows, seating areas, apertures in garden walls) and a series of three outdoor terraces adjoin the home office, living room and kitchen. From the first terrace with its stainless-steel reflecting pool, a walkway leads past beds of perennials — *Artemisia, Bergenia, Heuchera* — to a terrace for dining and relaxing, complete with a copper fire pit and an outdoor kitchen hidden within an architectural column.

The third terrace introduces a bit of landscape art and whimsy with a grouping of stainless-steel poles meant to be an abstraction of the forest beyond. They're also a handy place to hang your robe when indulging in the nearby spa, and some poles are outfitted as outdoor lighting. The "pokey poles," as Alexander Yaw and her team call them, were created by Bluegreen, proving that the landscape architecture firm really can handle every aspect of a project, from the practical to the sublime. As Alexander Yaw puts it, "We consider ourselves artists."

NO DETAIL TOO SMALL

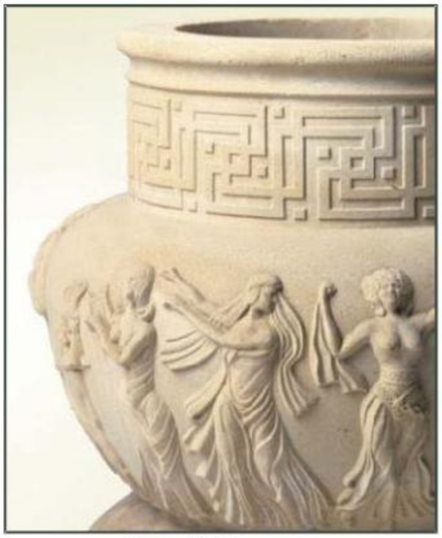
PRESERVE
Often one of a site's greatest assets is what is already there. This is especially true if a location is near a natural area or preserve. Be mindful of the nearby landscape, not only for its beauty but also as a vulnerable habitat for native plants and wildlife. Call in an expert to evaluate the site and offer advice for protecting it. And don't forget to preserve beautiful views when siting trees and outdoor-living areas.

INTEGRATE
Ideally a house and garden should harmonize in form and function. Close coordination can also have a cumulative effect on sustainability. No detail is really too small — from LED lighting, to irrigation rain sensors, to the type of concrete used, to recycling materials. The best and greenest results happen when client, architect, landscape designer and contractor are on the same page.

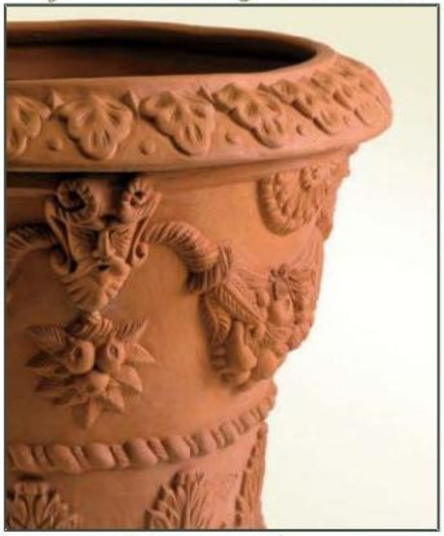
PROTECT
Construction is a critical time, and the best-laid plans can quickly go awry, sometimes irreparably. In a few minutes, a trenching machine can destroy the root system of a tree that has withstood hundreds of years of weather vagaries, human intervention and natural disasters. Equipment parked on-site can ruin soil structure. Be vigilant with anyone and anything participating in the building of your home and garden.

English Ashmore & Vase Plinth

French Anduze



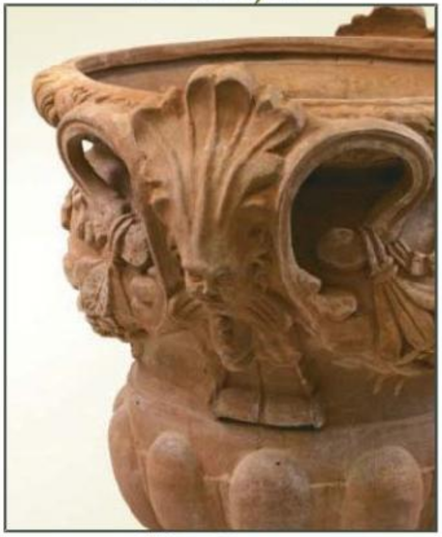
Fete Champetre



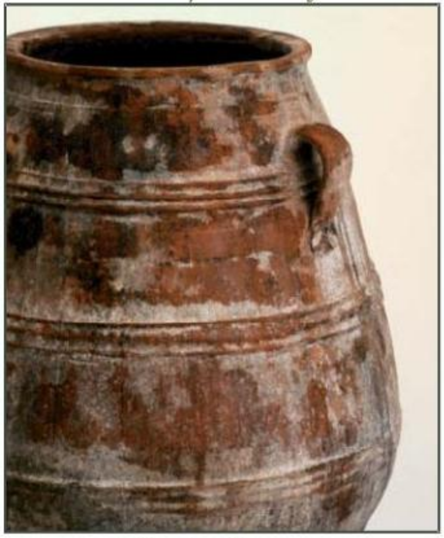
Whichford Swag

Eye of the Day
Garden Design Center
www.eyeofthedaygdc.com
805.566.0778

Santa Barbara, California

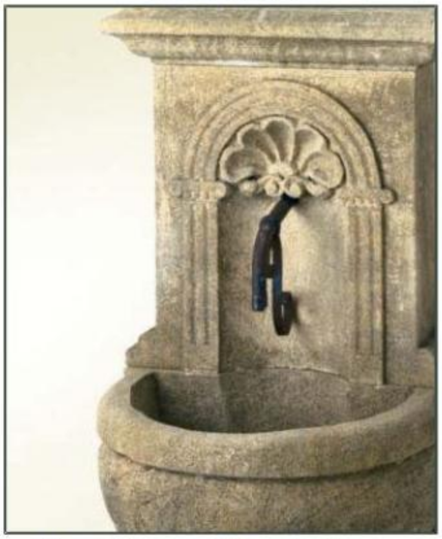


Vaso Lessona



Greek Amphora

Oriental Pacific Glazed Pot



Hand Carved French Limestone

Fine Home and Garden Products from Around the World

escape

GARDEN DESIGN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

Making our list of top spa gardens is Blancaneaux Lodge in Belize, a tropical retreat complete with private plunge pools, thatched-roof bungalows and walks in the jungle. See Blissed Out, page 54.

COURTESY BLANCANEAUX LODGE

42
Brazilian Bravura
Isabel Duprat takes a naturalist approach that adapts to the unique needs of a particular space: "I love to embrace unexpected situations and take advantage of them."

54
Blissed Out
"The garden is woven into every part of the spa experience, including the selection of herbs from the organic Healing Garden used in treatments," writes Megan Padilla.

64
Reading Palms
Says writer and palm enthusiast Jason Dewees, "The secret about palms that garden designers are learning is that there are varieties for nearly every landscape need."

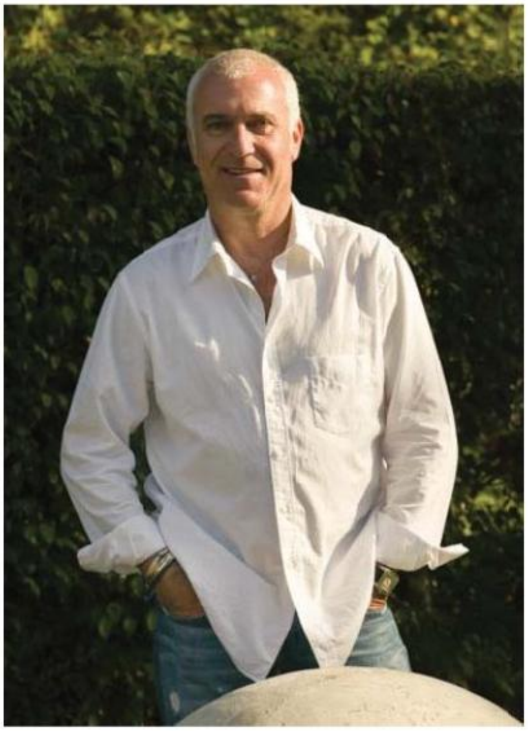
SOUTH AMERICA'S LARGEST CITY, SÃO PAULO HAS EVOLVED INTO A HOTBED FOR SOME OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGNS IN THE COUNTRY — AND THE WORLD

BRAZILIAN

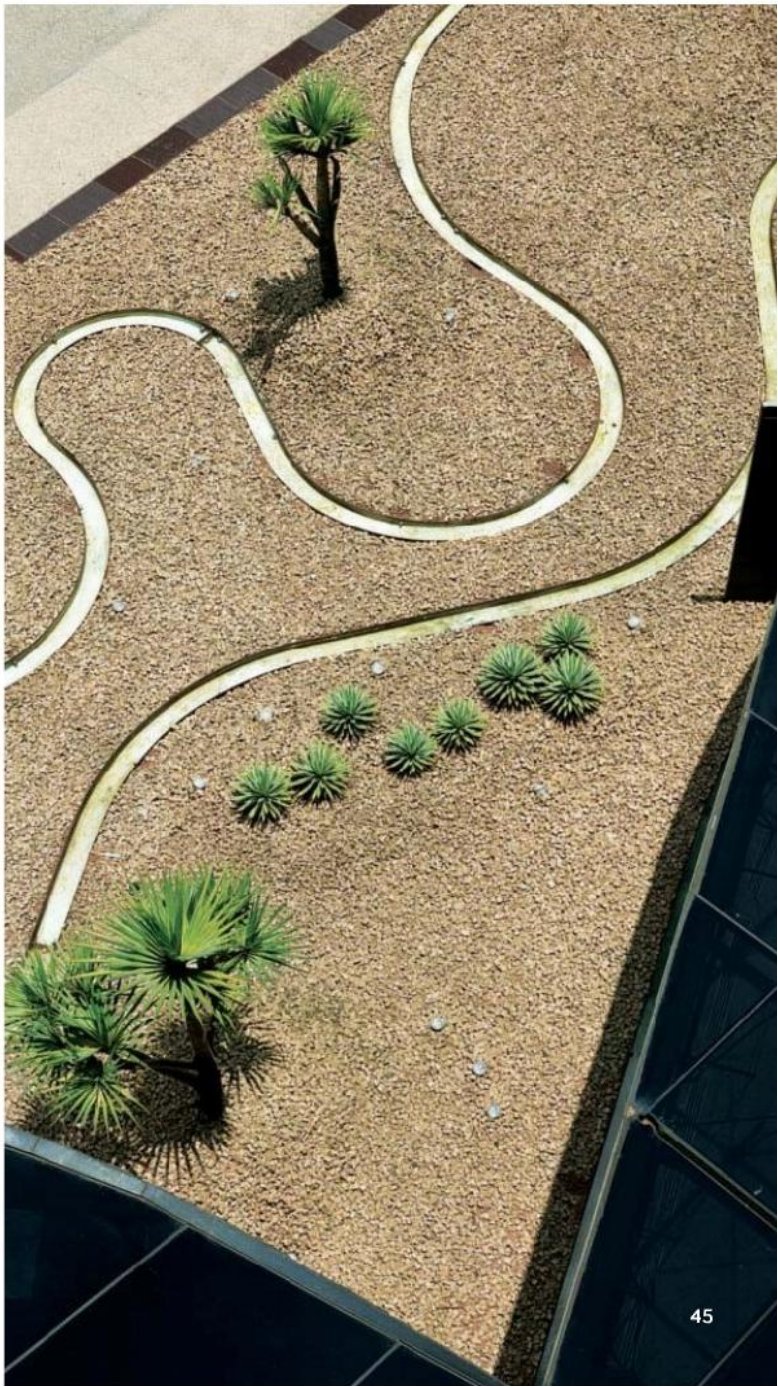
STORY BY DONNA DORIAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON WHITTLE

Muralist, painter, ecologist and naturalist Roberto Burle Marx (1909-1994) has been referred to as the spontaneous explosion who launched modernist landscape architecture in Brazil. Like his design for Rio's Copacabana, this 1980s rooftop winter garden for the Safra bank headquarters in São Paulo composes an abstract mural when seen from above.

BRAVURA



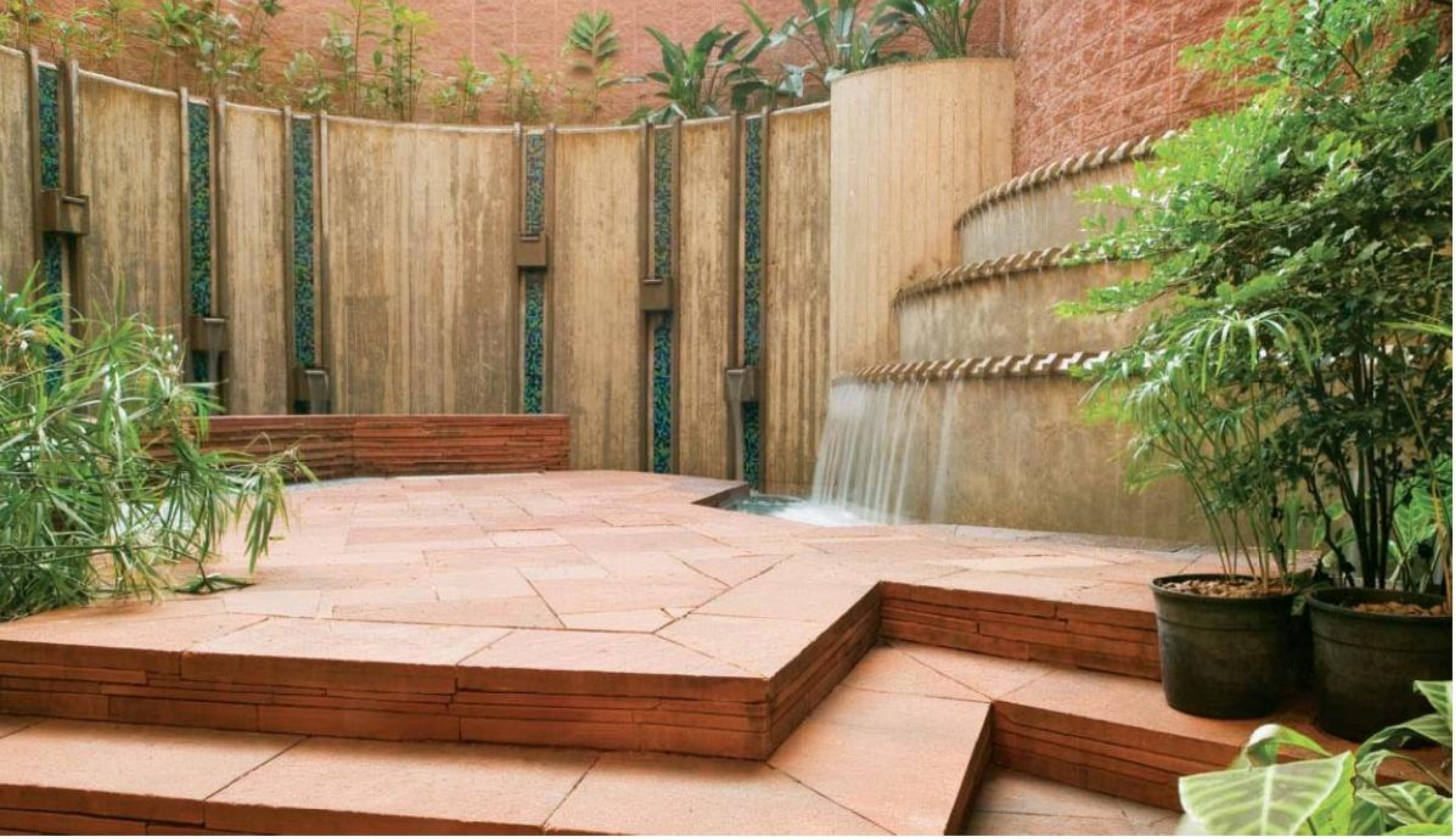
Opposite: Gilberto Elkis (at left) designed this riveting, sustainable landscape as equal accompaniment to São Paulo's post-modern, copper-clad Hotel Unique, by Brazil's foremost architect, Ruy Ohtake. **Below:** Conceived as a desert oasis and composed of a small collection of tropical trees and shrubs, stone and water, it gathers its strength and sense of permanence from the bold simplicity of architectonic forms.



Far from being in the shadow of the towering figure of Roberto Burle Marx, São Paulo's contemporary landscape designers have assumed his prodigious, inventive legacy and moved on. Today, braving a new language that's altogether global in spirit, they continue to press forward with high-end designs as they engage in a range of 21st-century challenges, from urban regeneration to conservation and historic preservation.

GILBERTO ELKIS

A TRENDSETTER AND ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN landscape architects in Brazil, Gilberto Elkis cuts a suave figure in and out of town. He is justly renowned for creating outdoor-living environments at chic country getaways, ambiance-setting indoor gardens for top restaurants and parks that address the red-hot architecture of São Paulo's boutique hotels. His commanding landscape for the muscular architecture of Ruy Ohtake's Hotel Unique is one of the highlights of São Paulo. Its landscape is dramatically different when viewed from various perspectives, whether from the ground floor's wall bar, the shiplike portal of a suite or the rooftop pool deck — one of the best places to see and be seen in São Paulo. From above, the snaking water channel lined with Cor-Ten steel suggests an abstract drawing, but from the ground plane, where the coursing line is barely visible, the architectural *Pandanus utilis* trees and *Agave angustifolia* seem like outcroppings of the building's commanding sculptural presence.

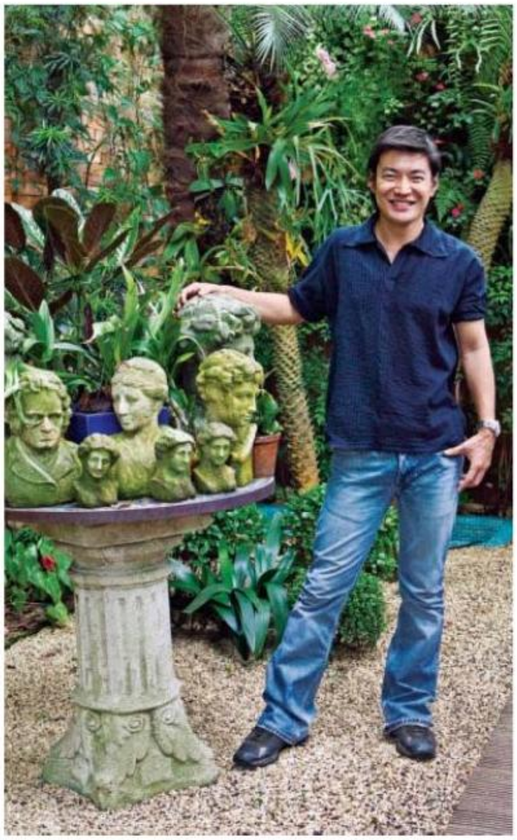


Opposite: Ornamented with *Phoenix* palms, one of Rosa Kliass' rooftop gardens for the Fleury Laboratory functions as both a promenade and a seating area for employees. **Top:** The fountain at the Fleury Laboratory is inset into the center of the building like a well. **Above:** The plan to transform an unfinished private garden by Burle Marx into São Paulo's Burle Marx Park was overseen by Kliass (at right).

ROSA KLIASS

A TRAILBLAZER FOR BRAZIL'S SECOND GENERATION OF landscape architects, Rosa Kliass was a student during the 1950s, when landscape architecture was just emerging as a field of study. She was at once inspired by Burle Marx and influenced by the "other Roberto" — Roberto Coelho Cardozo, who as a Californian of Portuguese descent, brought the ideas of California modernism to the University of São Paulo. Throughout her 50-year career, she has learned by doing and has molded the profession, spearheading the São Paulo parks department and co-founding the Brazilian Association of Landscape Architects, as well as designing the landscape plan for Curitiba (perhaps the greenest city on the planet), Brazil's early rooftop terraces and large-scale environmental preservation projects throughout the country.

The gardens she designed in 1996-97 for the Fleury Laboratory in São Paulo only hint at the tremendous range of her vision. Working in tandem with the building's architects, she requested that the architectural plan include a "well," which became a round, several-stories-deep inner courtyard that could be seen, and at its ground floor entered, from within the building. Once inside, the enclosed, circular space acts like a chapel, in which visitors sitting on its plaza steps are able to contemplate the profound presence and echoing resonance of its ever-flowing three-tiered fountain. For the laboratory's rooftop, she was given the mission to design a garden that would insulate the building from the noise of the nearby airport and act as an employee recreational area. Its snakelike promenade looks like an abstract hieroglyphic when see from the planes flying above.



Opposite: The sculptural permanence of this dramatic outdoor room is underlined by the selection of evergreen plants — *Pandanus utilis*, *Dracaena arborea*, *Phyllostachys pubescens*, *Buxus sempervirens* and the spring-flowering *Neomarica caerulea*. **Left:** At his São Paulo office, Alex Hanazaki stands among some of his favorite plants. **Below:** Designed for Casa Cor, Brazil's most-important showhouse, this dramatic setting takes on an otherworldly aspect when lit at night.

Opposite:

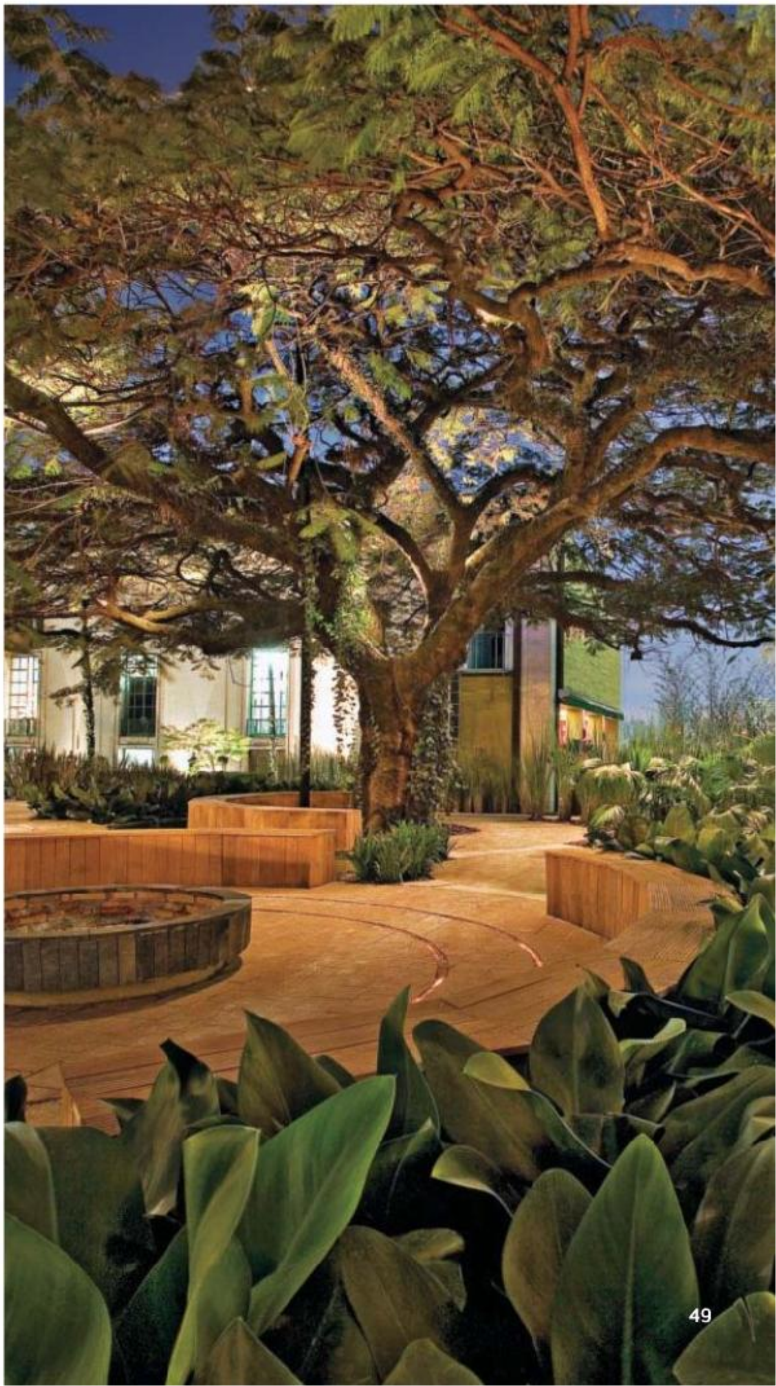
ALEX HANAZAKI

ALMOST SINCE HE FIRST BURST ONTO THE SCENE IN 1998 as a licensed architect, Alex Hanazaki has been counted among the young lions of Brazilian landscape architecture. The theatrical outdoor rooms that he continues to debut at Brazil's annual Casa Cor, the country's most important interior-design, architecture and landscape-design showhouse, have paved the way for major commissions on four continents.

The grandson of Japanese immigrants, he often employs the traditional materials of Japanese landscape design — rocks, water and plants — with a compressed poetic simplicity spoken in an altogether contemporary idiom. Influenced as much by modern art as by the interweaving of cultures so integral to the Brazilian experience (Brazil, for example, is home to the largest Japanese population outside of Japan). Hanazaki reflects that "although I haven't created specifically Japanese gardens, Japanese influences always appear in my gardens in very subtle ways."

In a São Paulo residential courtyard, the aesthetic balance inherent in Japanese art — the subtle interplay between interior and exterior, between nature and culture — is suggested by quiet association. Both open to the air and incorporated inside the house, the garden is surrounded by glass-walled rooms on three sides and a white quartz-backed fountain on the fourth. The minimal palette of green, white and black, the austere, geometric planting design and the pool's calm water, as still as mirrored glass, compose a sustainable, low-maintenance garden in which a single *Pandanus utilis* stands as the meditative focal point of the house.

FAR RIGHT: COURTESY ALEX HANAZAKI



Opposite: For the entrance garden of this São Paulo residence, Isabel Duprat (at right) counterpoints sculpted bamboo reaching toward the sky with river stones at rest in the pool. **Top:** A similar approach is at play in her Isamu Noguchi-inspired stone garden at the entrance to the Torre Sul building, where the elements are harmoniously balanced. **Above:** Creating a feeling of a house in the country, Duprat surrounded this swimming pool with plants able to thrive in the city's subtropical climate.

ISABEL DUPRAT

IN THE 1930s, ROBERTO BURLE MARX WAS BRAZIL'S FIRST landscape designer to make a clean break with the colonial language of the past. Embracing Brazil's botanical plenty and demonstrating how perfectly possible it is to adopt a nonconfrontational attitude toward the natural world, Marx unfolded a vision of harmony between man and nature that became the root from which his garden-making evolved into art. This approach is very much alive in Brazil today, particularly in the hands of Isabel Duprat, who as a young architect worked alongside Marx to collect and study Brazil's indigenous flora, setting the stage for their lifelong friendship. In the past 25 years, she has been prolific, designing projects ranging from the restoration of Marx's garden at the Instituto Moreira Salles in Rio de Janeiro to a 21st-century park placed as the centerpiece of, rather than as the complement to, São Paulo's BankBoston building.

Rather than adopt a style that is then superimposed on the landscape, Duprat takes a naturalist approach that adapts to the unique needs of a particular space. "I love to embrace unexpected situations and take advantage of them," says Duprat. As an example, her solution for the design of the entrance of São Paulo's corporate Torre Sul building was found in excess slabs of Brazilian green quartz used for a fountain constructed at the same site. Placing the stones in careful harmony with each other, she created a language and a rhythm between the elements so that each plays its own part in a kind of musical composition.

MIDDLE: COURTESY ISABEL DUPRAT

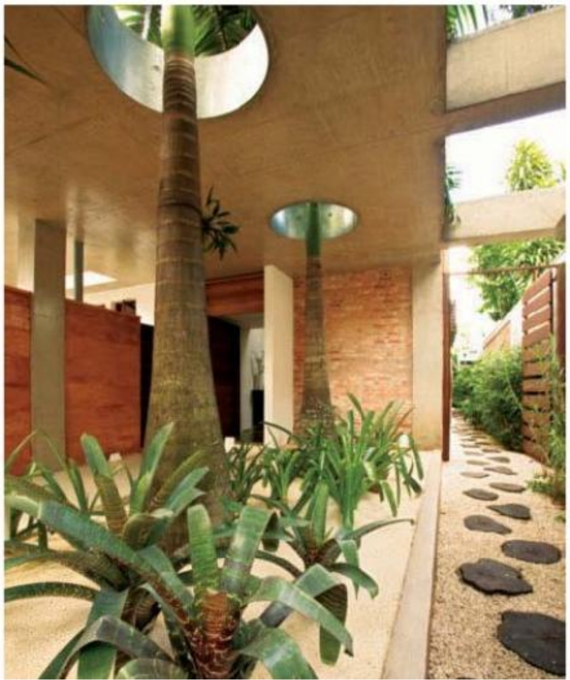
OTHER NOTABLES

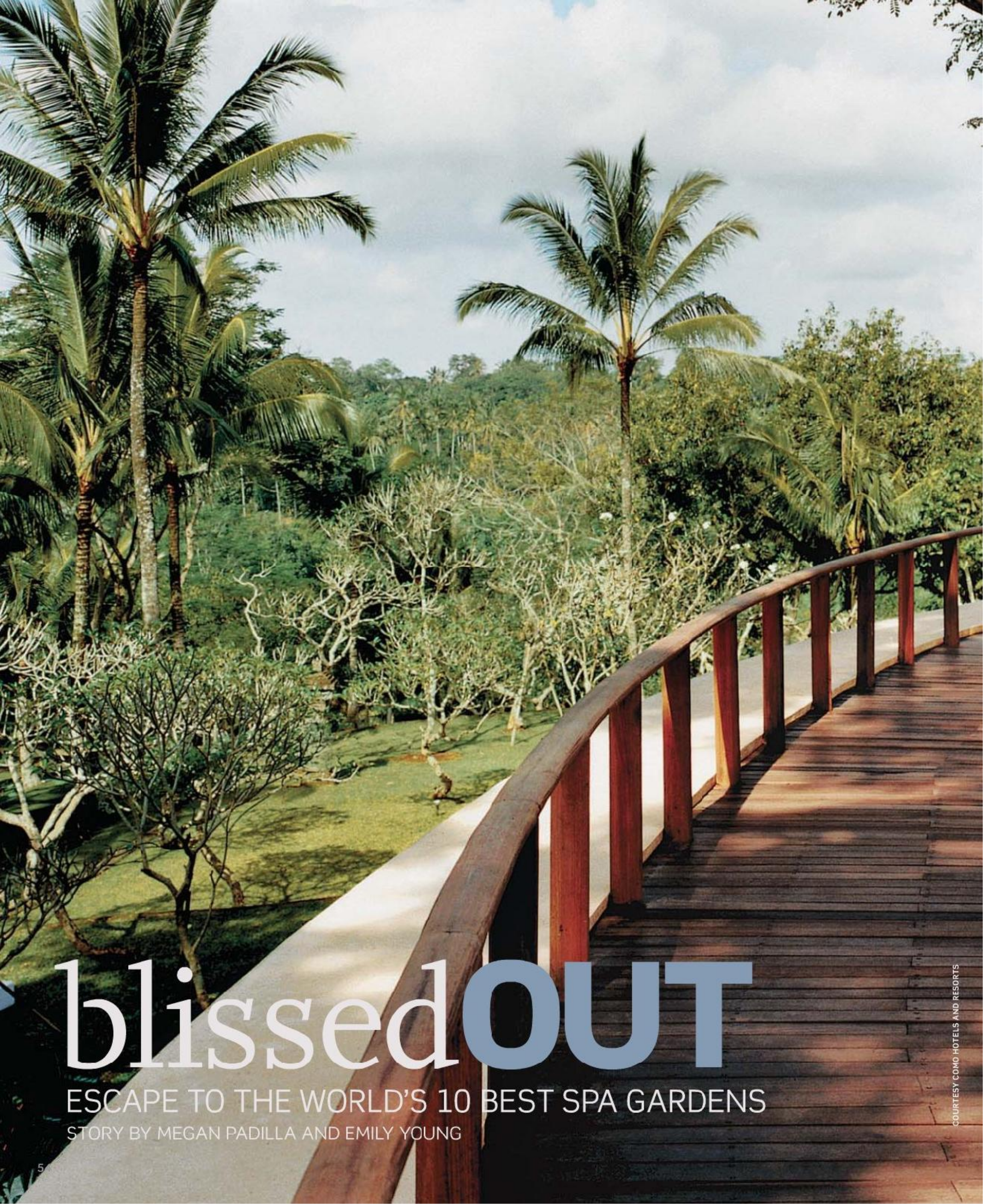
Opposite: Whether he is designing a garden for São Paulo's chic Fasano restaurant, or a private getaway for film director Hector Babenco, **Rodrigo Oliveira** proves his mettle as a self-proclaimed naturalist. Babenco's garden exemplifies Oliveira's approach: After crossing an ipe bridge into an opening in a wall, the house is discovered in the midst of a small rainforest.

Above: Although **Maria Cecília Gorski** has designed landmark gardens throughout São Paulo and Brazil, she particularly delights in making gardens and playgrounds for children. For the family restaurant Praça São Lourenço, which doubles as a playground, she created a water course punctuated with mini water-spouting volcanoes, a treehouse and a planting of fruit trees.

Right Above: Known for both his public and commercial work, **Benedito Abbud** has overseen some 5,200 projects throughout South America. His design for Brascan Century Plaza — with its angular waterways, outdoor sculpture and 100 *pau ferro, sibipuruna* and *pau brasil* trees (from which the country takes it name) — brought a sense of community to the neighborhood.

Right Below: After **Sérgio Menon** and **Caterina Poli** pooled their talents in horticulture and architecture to form Grama & Flor Paisagismo, they quickly made a name as designers of sensory-filled outdoor rooms. For this garden, they created "a little beach with bromeliads and sand." Holes in the roof allow light in and the royal palms to be viewed from the bedroom above.





blissed OUT

ESCAPE TO THE WORLD'S 10 BEST SPA GARDENS

STORY BY MEGAN PADILLA AND EMILY YOUNG

COURTESY COMO HOTELS AND RESORTS

Previous page and this page: COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali; Opposite page, left to right: Blancaneaux Lodge in Belize, Shangri-La Hotel in Thailand.

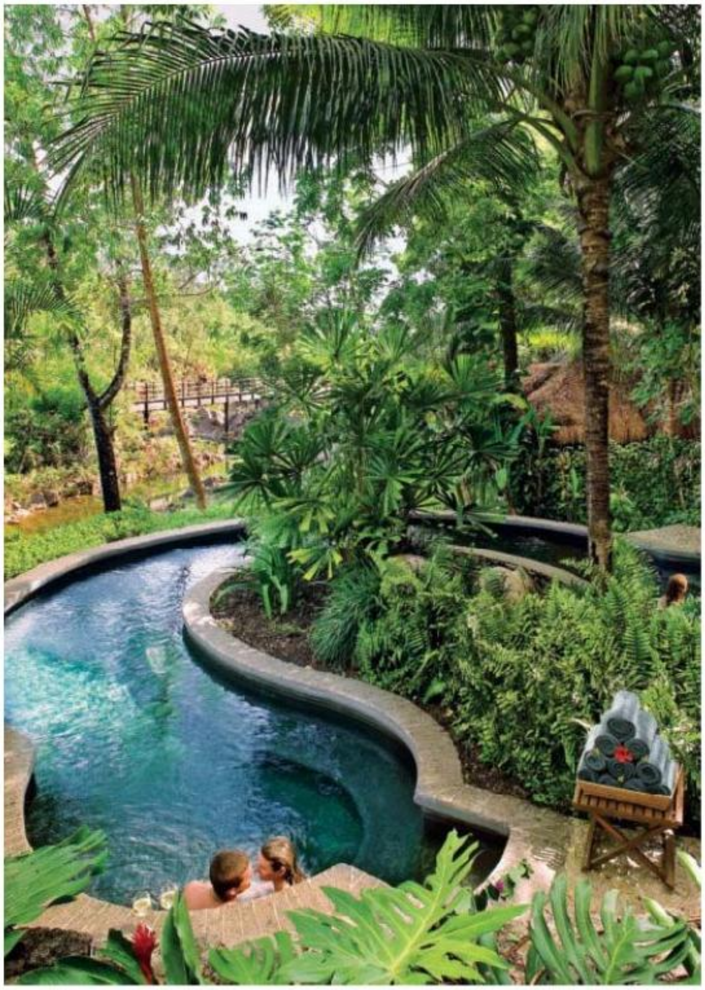
COMO SHAMBHALA ESTATE
BEGAWAN GIRI, BALI

This holistic health retreat and its junglelike gardens are nothing if not a feast for the senses: Behold yellow heliconias, red anthuriums, black bamboo and white bougainvillea. Hear tree ferns rustling in the wind. Breathe in frangipani's heady perfume. Taste fresh-picked mango and avocado. Feel the therapeutic heat of the sun and the bracing chill of the nearby Ayung River. To focus so intently on the landscape not only stimulates a deeper appreciation for the outdoors but also heightens one's sense of well-being. The resort's 23 acres reward exploration. Wanderers will discover Ojas, the main spa area centrally located in a forest clearing. Here, the yoga pavilion with its panoramic views of the main swimming pool and the grounds below sits atop the main spa center with its air-conditioned treatment rooms. A short hike away, at the end of a path punctuated with sculptures crafted by local artisans, lies Kedara, a spring-fed water garden. Rustic amenities in this treatment area include *plein-air* relaxation spaces such as traditional Balinese *bales* and freshwater pools. Perhaps the most-tempting spot is an enormous tub carved out of volcanic rock — an invitation to enjoy a flower-strewn bath and be serenaded by flowing water and the call of wild birds in the trees above. **TRY THIS:** Surrender to the languid rhythm of the long, wavelike strokes of the COMO Shambhala Massage, and you'll find yourself lulled into a blissful slumber.

BLANCANEAUX LODGE
MOUNTAIN PINE RIDGE RESERVE, BELIZE

Trellises laden in shocks of brightly colored bougainvillea and coffee plants heavy with their cherry-red fruit flesh out the subtropical landscape deep in the heart of Belize on the banks of the Privassion River. Here you'll find a remote getaway where thatched-roof bungalows and paw prints left by an elusive jaguar might leave you wondering if you've wandered onto a movie set. You wouldn't

COURTESY COMO HOTELS AND RESORTS (2), RIGHT PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: COURTESY BLANCANEAUX LODGE; COURTESY SHANGRI-LA HOTEL



be far from the truth: Legendary movie director Francis Ford Coppola has owned the once-abandoned Blancaneaux Lodge — where he and his wife Eleanor have brought their Napa Valley passion for stewardship of the land — for nearly 30 years. In addition to creating a hydroelectric plant to supply much of the resort's power and diligently recycling waste water, the Coppolas also maintain a 3-acre organic garden that supplies the resort with 80 percent of its needs. Expect local dishes and Italian cuisine utilizing ingredients from the garden; swimming pools, private plunge pools and even a horseshoe-shaped hot pool (pictured) that will maximize your immersion in the landscape; and a spa whose name is inspired by the on-site waterfall that completes this cinematic retreat. The Waterfall Spa is artfully placed amongst the gardens and turns to Thailand as inspiration for its treatments. But make no mistake, when the treatment room doors are open to the garden and you hear the sound of the river, the song of the acid-green trogons and the fluttering of hummingbird wings, you'll know you are squarely in Central America.

TRY THIS: What do you get when you combine just-picked bananas and honey sprinkled with salt crystals? OK, it could be a gourmet-ice-cream flavor, but at the Waterfall Spa it is part of a nourishing body wrap called the Oriental Prelude Treatment. If you're in the mood for exploration, join a resort naturalist to see wild orchids in a broadleaved forest in nearby Elijio Panti National Park.

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
BANGKOK, THAILAND

With high-rises on the skyline signifying the hustle-bustle of Thailand's capital city, unobstructed views of the riverfront and tropical gardens of palm-shaded blue agaves, bromeliads and cycads all go a long way in creating a palpable sense of retreat from the workaday world. In this urban oasis along the Chao Phraya River, the pace is decidedly slower and the mood always upbeat. Those who really want to get away from it all head for the hotel's inner sanctum: CHI, the Spa, in the luxury Krungthep wing. Private suites

decorated as contemporary Tibetan temples in sleek wood and split-face stone set the stage for unwinding amid freshly cut lotus blossoms, flickering candles, herbal steam showers and hydrotherapy baths aglow with colored lights. The Garden Suite presents an inviting yin and yang of indoor and outdoor comforts. At more than 1,150 square feet, the palatial space was built around a banyan tree and is framed by masses of white and yellow orchids, ferns, philodendrons and elephant ears. A path of stone pavers set atop a bed of river stones runs the length of the garden between the twin temptations of a cushioned relaxation platform at one end and an infinity bath incorporated in a lotus pond at the other. **TRY THIS:** The Himalayan healing stone massage, preceded by a foot wash, is inspired by a centuries-old Tibetan practice. You'll enjoy smooth river stones, inscribed with auspicious symbols by Buddhist monks, that are heated in a steamer, dipped in oil and then placed on your muscles to release tension while being incorporated within a full-body massage to restore energy.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, DHARA DHEVI
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

Set in the tranquil northern Thai countryside, this thoroughly modern resort manages to evoke a time when agriculture was a way of life. Hotel rice paddies tended by farmers with water buffalo encircle the 60-acre property, while a profusion of gardenias, jasmine and ylang-ylang (*Cananga odorata*) shaded by coconut palms, banyans and ficus fill the gardens within. An 80-year-old nutmeg tree marks the entrance to Dheva Spa, featuring an elaborately carved teak exterior reminiscent of the original royal palace in Mandalay, Myanmar. Offering an array of soothing Asian, Indian, North African and European treatments, the spa stands crowned by a magnificent seven-tiered roof — a fitting reminder that even the most world-weary traveler who sojourns here will have no trouble ascending the seven steps to nirvana. **TRY THIS:** Let your mind and body drift back across the ages by taking part in an ancient *lanna*, or northern Thai ritual, during which your muscles are first rhythmically tapped with a stick made of tamarind tree bark, then gently kneaded with comforting herbal oils and warm compresses.

HAKONE-GINYU,
HAKONE, JAPAN

This gracious five-story *ryokan*, or traditional Japanese inn, fed by *onsen*, or hot springs, in the mountains southwest of Tokyo was recently renovated and today is run by the fourth generation of the family that established the business in 1951. Three public baths encourage gathering with other guests before tea and meals. Two baths with saunas are perched on the top floor, while the ground-floor Matsukaze bath opens to a quiet still life: a garden lined with local boulders, and camellias, ornamental cherries and dogwoods that explode with blossoms from spring through early summer. Each of the 20 private rooms — most with tatami floors for sleeping and dining rather than Western-style accommodations — features an outdoor onsen bath with a postcard view of a tree-covered gorge. **TRY THIS:** Spring for the Ginyu-Spa Original Oil Massage and, depending on the season, take in the mist- or snow-shrouded mountains. In the fourth-floor spa or your room, this rubdown with the

TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY MANDARIN ORIENTAL; ROBERT HARDING; COURTESY HAKONE-GINYU, RIGHT PAGE: MANDARIN ORIENTAL

This page and opposite top and middle: Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi in Thailand; Opposite page, bottom: Hakone-Ginyu in Japan.

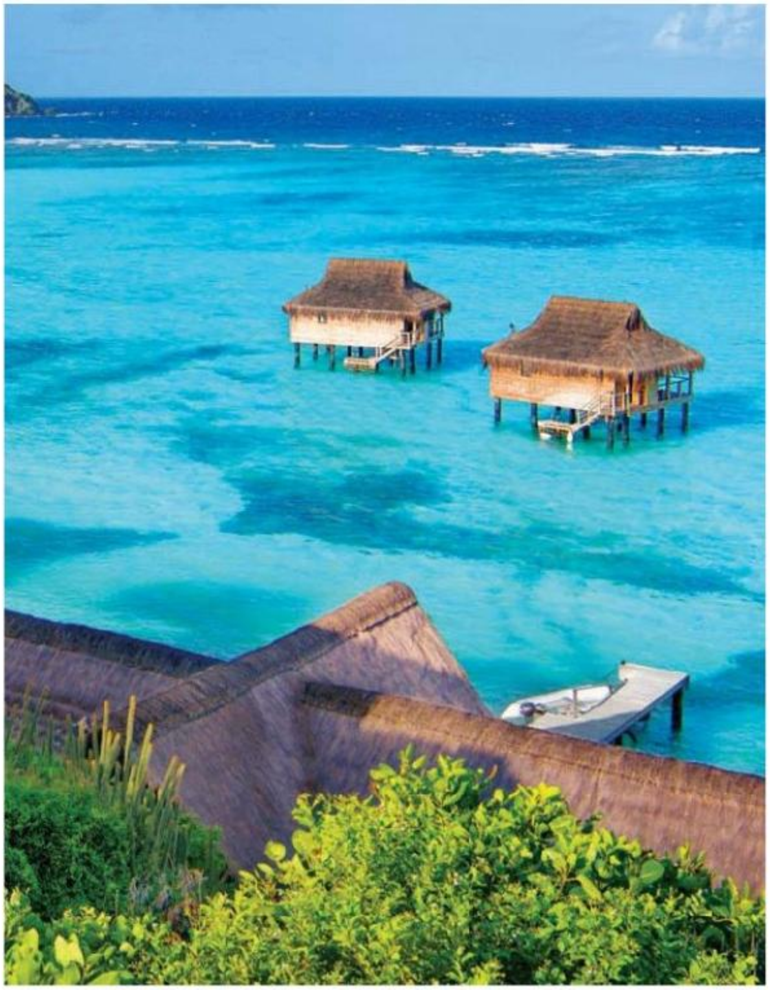
This page: Lake Austin Spa Resort in Texas; Opposite page, left to right: Raffles Resort Canouan Island in the Caribbean, Spa Botanica in Singapore.

aromatic oils of French lavender and Roman chamomile is pampering at its most divine.

LAKE AUSTIN SPA RESORT
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Rolling hills carpeted in green, limestone that glows a pinkish gold in the setting sun, and miles and miles of river, dammed into sections referred to as lakes, define the Texas Hill Country that surrounds Austin. It is here, 35 minutes northwest of the energized capital city, where you'll find more than 1,000 species of trees, flowers, herbs and vegetables on 19 lakefront acres designed to nourish the body and soul. This is Lake Austin Spa Resort, which is quite simply, really darn pretty. Check in with family or friends (or just yourself) for at least three days, and enjoy simple but sumptuous accommodations, healthy gourmet meals, daily mind and body classes, and best of all, the LakeHouse Spa where the garden is queen. When the massive spa opened in 2004, the selected location was placed slightly farther from the previous spa's site and also uphill from the main part of the resort. Director of Flora and Fauna Trisha Shirey knew she wanted to provide guests with an interesting and enjoyable experience while walking there, so with the help of the landscape architect, she planned a meandering path beneath old-growth pecan trees and devised surprises for the senses around each turn: flowers that attract butterflies, water features that calm and connect the viewer to the river below, aromas that sooth. The garden is woven into every part of the spa experience, from selecting herbs from the organic Healing Garden to be used in your treatment to the private gardens where *au naturel* sunbathing is permitted off both the men's and women's locker rooms. Even the elevator carries on the motif: It is lined with silk that is embroidered with butterflies.
TRY THIS: Gifts of Our Garden exfoliates, showers, wraps and massages, all with an elixir made from herbs selected by you. Take your treatment in the garden or on the screened-in porch.

JON WHITTLE (2); RIGHT PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: COURTESY RAFFLES RESORT CANOUAN ISLAND; COURTESY SENTOSA RESORT & SPA



RAFFLES RESORT CANOUAN ISLAND

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, CARIBBEAN

When you land on Canouan Island, a resort representative greets you and then whisks you off in a Mercedes for a drive across the lush, green island on unpaved roads, where the sea is as blue as can be and as far as you can see. It's a fitting transition to a seaside garden paradise that provides a golf cart with each room to get around the 300-acre grounds. If you can peel yourself away from the white-sand beaches and the endless shades of divine Caribbean blue, we suggest driving yourself straight to RafflesAmrita Spa with its 11 thatched-roof, *palapa* spa suites. Nine are scattered across the jungled hillside, each overlooking the sea and reached by mini funicular railway. Two others are built on stilts directly over the sea and can be reached only by boat. As you depart from the private jetty, the smell of fragrant blossoms mingles with the sea air. Pure bliss. **TRY THIS:** There's no better time and place to splurge on the Couples Wellness three-hour treatment in a private over-water bungalow complete with a glass-bottom floor. Treatments for two include the foot-bath ritual, aromatherapy steam bath, facial and massage.

SENTOSA RESORT & SPA

SINGAPORE

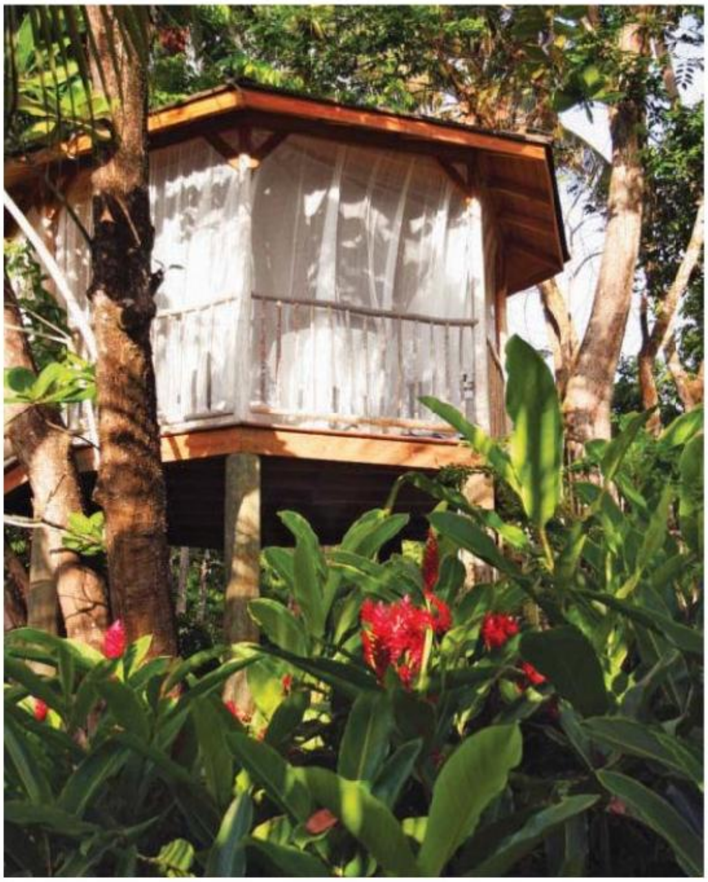
You would think that Sentosa Resort & Spa, with its heady mix of tropical plantings and cascading water, was situated on a remote tropical island. The retreat is on an island, but it's hardly remote, connected as Sentosa Island is to mainland Singapore by a well-traveled bridge. One glimpse of Spa Botanica's soothing mud pools and all that bustling humanity slips away with the ease of a silk sarong. The hushed grounds have float pools with rock walls and waterfalls, a grass-carpeted meditative labyrinth walk and lush display gardens, complete with labels, highlighting tropical plants with therapeutic benefits. Tranquil, private treatment pavilions — done in a cool colonial style that reflects the 19th-century architecture of the revamped building that houses the spa's luxe indoor works — are placed throughout the

This page and opposite top: Frégate Island Reserve in the Seychelles; Opposite page, middle and bottom: Discovery at Marigot Bay on St. Lucia.

gardens designed by an international team led by resort owner HKR International. Spa Botanica includes its own line of bionatural products in its treatments — one of which is the three-hour Singapore Flower Ritual of aromatic massage followed by a soak in a frangipani-filled tub — and is billed as Singapore's first garden-destination spa. **TRY THIS:** A healthful meal is rarely as all-out decadent, or as elegant, as at The Garden, the nearly year-old "conscious dining" experience tucked poolside next to Spa Botanica. Prepare for pampering by informed servers and an attentive kitchen that thoughtfully twists the freshest organic ingredients into hip works of art.

FRÉGATE ISLAND PRIVATE
FRÉGATE ISLAND, SEYCHELLES

Eden really does exist. You'll find it amidst the sculpted granite islands of the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. The most remote is Frégate, a private island reserve where you will be among not more than 40 guests granted exclusive access to some of the world's rarest flora, including the coco de mer palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*) — not to mention the island's seven beaches, some of which invite the first visitor to arrive to hang a "Beach Occupied" sign. Go on a guided nature walk with an island ecologist to learn about the resort's efforts to return the island to its natural state following an era when it was cleared for farming and grazing. Go through a planted banyan forest or up to the 410-foot Mount Signal on a trail laced with cinnamon, breadfruit, ylang-ylang and cashew trees. As for meals, since the island has its own source of fresh water, everything from coffee to vanilla to papayas is grown organically and harvested daily to appear on your plate. And when it comes to spa indulgence, find your way through the granite canyon bookended by freshwater pools to reach the cliff-top Rock Spa. Here, botanical treatments prepared with local ingredients draw inspiration from India, Australia and Polynesia — this region's "neck of the woods." **TRY THIS:** Dining is taken seriously on island. Indulge in a delivered full-service lunch on one of the most beautiful beaches in the world: Anse Victorin or Anse Macquereau.



DISCOVERY AT MARIGOT BAY
ST. LUCIA, CARIBBEAN

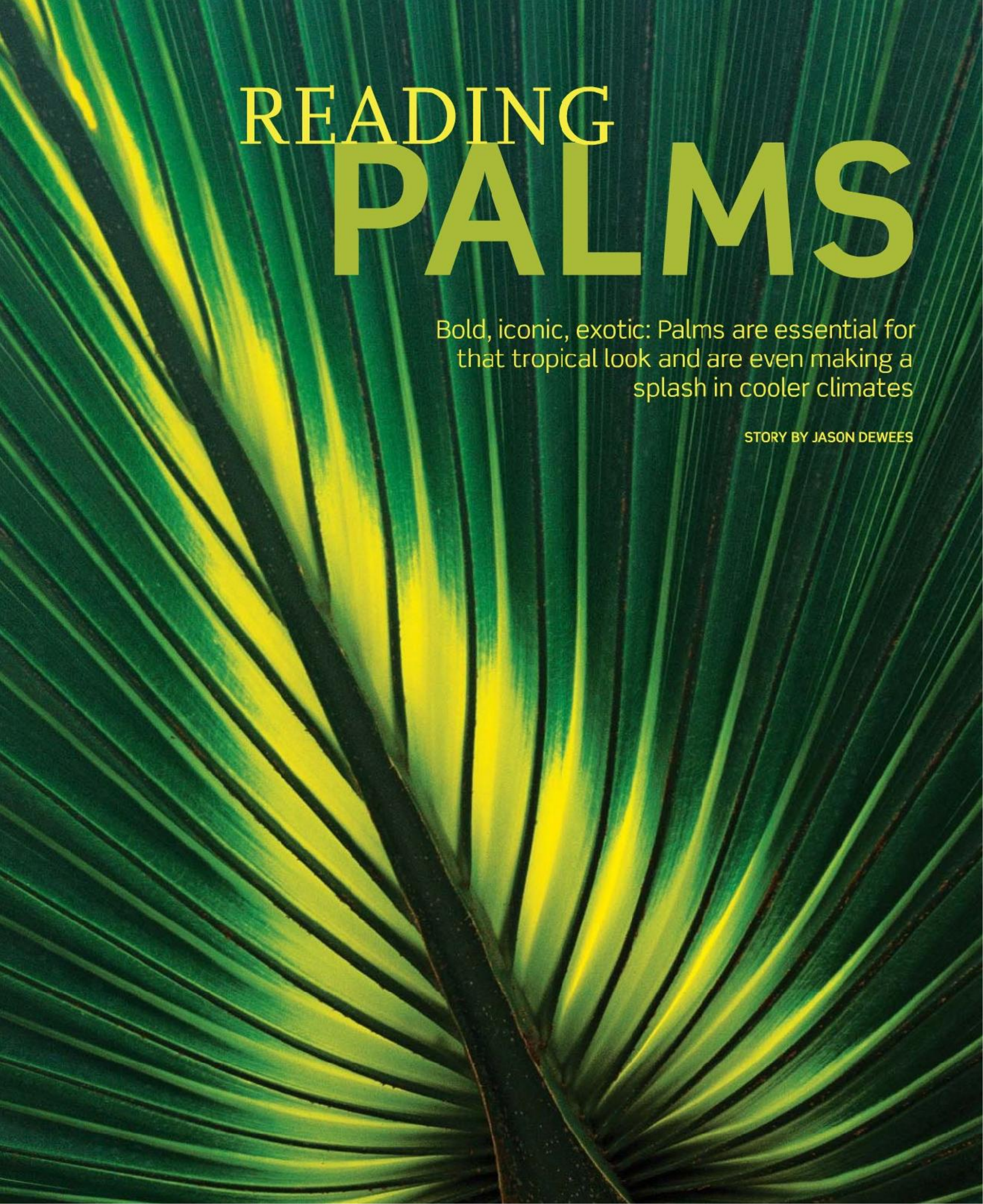
It doesn't seem possible, and yet the landscaped grounds of this Caribbean getaway are every bit as beguiling as St. Lucia's rugged mountains, dense rainforests and sun-kissed beaches. Planted by noted gardening expert Veronica Shingleton-Smith, a British ex-patriot, the hotel's "managed wild gardens" are packed with hibiscus, red ginger lilies and other exotic blooms, while space elsewhere is given over to plants cultivated for their healing properties, such as bananas, *Aloe vera* and various herbs. In the feng shui-correct Zen garden around Lapli Spa, a waterfall-like fountain produces refreshing music, and each treatment room boasts an open-air shower. Tension-melting massages in thatch-roofed cabanas and leisurely soaks in Japanese-style wood tubs are two simple pleasures that feel all the more self-indulgent when experienced amid the natural beauty of the outdoors. **TRY THIS:** Select cocoa sticks made from cocoa beans grown at a nearby estate that are then converted to warm, antioxidant-rich chocolate and slathered on from head to toe. The Chocolate Immersion includes a facial, a massage and either a body polish mixed with coffee or a body wrap blended with cream and honey.

SEE SOURCEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION, PAGE 72

LEFT PAGE: COURTESY FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE, RIGHT PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: ALISON WRIGHT; ZACH STOVALL (2)

Unparalleled as avenue trees and tropical staples, palms have been invaluable to garden designers since ancient Persia. Now designers within and beyond the tropics are using them in fresh ways. Here a classic double row of royal palms (*Roystonea oleracea*) creates drama in this Hawaiian landscape. Opposite: The bold architecture of a palmetto leaf transmits light and color.

LISA ROMEREIN, RIGHT PAGE: JOHN GLOVER



READING PALMS

Bold, iconic, exotic: Palms are essential for that tropical look and are even making a splash in cooler climates

STORY BY JASON DEWEES

Palms are a complete sensory experience:

The rustle of fronds in the wind, curving shadows, textured trunks, scented flowers and luscious fruits create an intoxicating atmosphere. One of the earliest cultivated fruit trees, the palm seems on loan from Eden. But palms are often overlooked as design elements, becoming the equivalent of background noise. Ask anyone to draw a palm and what do you get: a long stem, a tuft of leaves, maybe a couple of coconuts — and there, you've captured it, right? Not true. The secret about palms that garden designers from Vancouver to Cartagena to Singapore are learning is that among the 2,500 species of this diverse plant family are varieties for nearly every landscape need, making them a tremendous garden resource that has essentially been hiding in plain sight.

Indeed, no tropical look is complete without palms, but they go far beyond the iconic double row of palm trees lining Hollywood Boulevard, or postcard-perfect coconut palms silhouetted against the sunset. Their bold, symmetrical foliage, uniformity, varied textures and sizes, and diverse growth habits make them uniquely compelling garden subjects. While designers in the tropics and subtropics have a wide array to work with, even people in England, the Pacific Northwest and the Southeast are using what Linnaeus considered the "prince of plants" to wondrous effect.

Nearly every garden needs vertical elements to add volume and perspective, and the simple upright form of many palms is invaluable from Honolulu to Barcelona to Savannah. The solitaire palm (*Ptychosperma elegans*) performs well in subtropical and tropical climes, while the Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) speeds skyward and tolerates frosts in warm-temperate zones as well. And thanks to the hardiness of species like the Chinese windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), that verticality can be exploited even in places like Seattle, Tokyo and London, where winter brings an occasional dusting of snow incongruously covering lacy fronds.

The all-important garden element of texture is another stronghold of palm trees, literally from the ground up. Witness the hairy trunks on the old man palm (*Coccothrinax crinita*), the smooth green rings on the bamboo palm (*Chamaedorea seifritzii*) and kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*), and the fiercely thorned basketry of the zombie

Above left: Designer Brandon Tyson's pick of a pindo palm (*Butia capitata*) creates a swaying blue note amid grasses and shrubs. **Below left:** Water-wise Mexican blue palms (*Brahea armata*) thrive in a planter, casting their reflection into the pool below. **Opposite:** A cold-hardy Chinese windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), its leaf bases removed to expose a ringed trunk, erupts in spring bloom. In this chic urban space, a palm creates a serene vertical element while its crown casts light, animated shade.

TOP TO BOTTOM: MARION BRENNER; STEVE GUNTHER, RIGHT PAGE: ANDREA JONES

palm (*Zombia antillarum*) and Brazilian needle palm (*Trithrinax brasiliensis*).

Color is the stealth asset of the palm family. In addition to an infinite range of greens, cold-hardy species like the Mexican blue palm (*Brahea armata*) and pindo palm (*Butia capitata*) confer icy blue or blue-green foliage onto a garden palette in temperate climates like California and the Southeast, while the heart-stopping sealing-wax palm (*Cyrtostachys renda*) adds a cluster of lipstick-red stems to truly tropical landscapes. The unsung fruits and flowers of palm trees range from gold, green, black, red and purple, worthy of garden scrutiny and ideal as cut material for indoor arrangements, along with their foliage and woven leaf bases.

Then there are the aspects of palms that you might not think of until you add them to your garden and observe palm trees up close. Their open crowns cast dappled, animated shade and decorative shadows on walkways, walls and through windows into the house. Their oversize leaves make soothing sounds in the wind. Bright-green fronds make translucent silhouettes by day, and dramatically up-lit at night they perform a shadow play. With their delicate appeal also comes strength, a signature paradox of palms, and their extreme flexibility makes them one of the few plants able to stand up to a tropical storm.

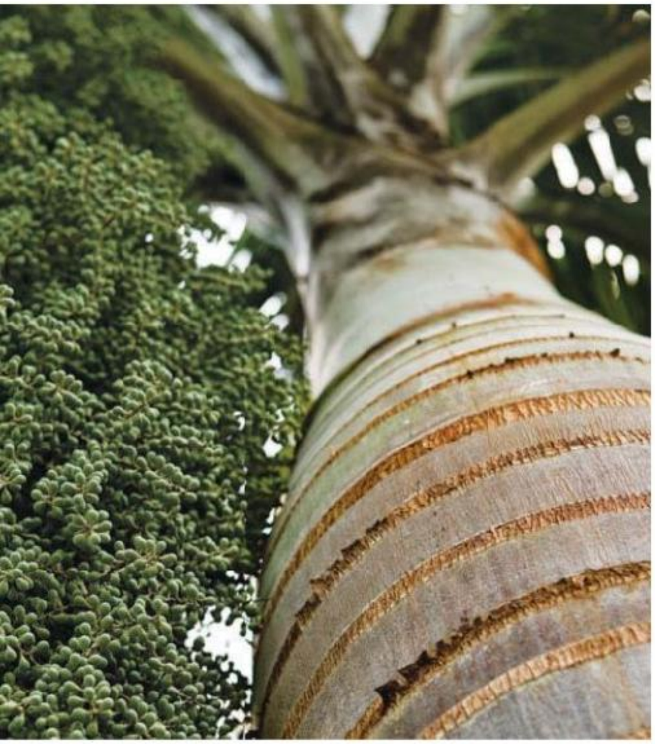
Whether the solo player, the lead actor in a plant ensemble or a supporting character, the palm's distinctive form holds its own. They excel as dramatic punctuation marks in the landscape, and a single fine specimen or multi-trunk cluster creates a sculptural focal point. But some palm trees seem meant for allées. The central axis of Rio de Janeiro's Botanical Garden and Palm Beach's Royal Palm Way are distinguished by rows of royal palms, their concrete-white trunks creating a colonnade, their vibrant green leaves drawing the eye upward. The key is to use the same species, evenly spaced, or alternating with another species of tree or palm. Rows of palm-tree clusters can also be exuberant, as on Broadway in San Diego, where Senegal date palms (*Phoenix reclinata*) in the median add green rhythm to the drive through a concrete canyon.

Planted in groves, tall palms like the royal (*Roystonea* species), queen (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), Mexican fan (*Washingtonia robusta*), palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*) and coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) palm create a

Opposite: Versatile and hardy to 15 degrees Fahrenheit, a mature pindo palm brings compelling elegance to this residential garden. Even when this species is a young, trunkless plant, its arching, blue-green fronds work beautifully in a container or as a slow-growing foliage element. **Above right:** Green crownshafts of royal palms (*Roystonea*) make a vivid transition from sturdy trunk to feathery leaves. **Below right:** Using a rich mix of palm species and elemental stonework, Raymond Jungles created a rainforest atmosphere around a spa in Panama.

LEFT PAGE: JERRY PAVIA, RIGHT PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: BLICKWINKEL/ALAMY; RICHARD FELBER

comforting canopy without completely blocking the light, like an installation of parasols. Smaller species can play roles as hedges, shrubs or bamboo alternatives in shade (*Rhapis excelsa*, lady palm, and *Chamaedorea costaricana*, bamboo palm) or sun (*Chamaerops humilis*, Mediterranean fan palm), or as trunkless understory elements (*Chamaedorea radicalis*, *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* and *Kerriodoxa elegans*).



And just as palms are among the choicest containerized indoor plants, so too do they make marvelous container statements outdoors. Consider the bold, graphic impact of Mediterranean fan palms (*Chamaerops humilis*) and Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) in the weighty pots lining the streets of Rome, immune to winter cold and summer's heat and tourists. Compelling even as a 1-gallon plant, the slow-growing, versatile Mediterranean fan palm will thrive for years in a small container in the home garden, in sun or light shade, as will the pygmy date palm (*Phoenix roebelenii*), a more water-loving miniature tree.

While palms are ideal companions to modernist and classical architecture, the rigid over-reliance on their regular forms can lead to neglecting the pleasures of naturalistic plantings, multi-age groves or mixing into beds with other plant types — succulents, shrubs, trees, bamboos. Just as avenue plantings can convey the silent seriousness of a Greek temple, palms planted informally carry on a dialogue with each other and the plants around them.

Though their symmetry and size make palms perfect elements in large estate gardens, many can also bring a touch of the tropics to smaller landscapes. Amenable to transplanting at maturity to a degree far surpassing other trees, palms offer instant gratification, even in narrow urban spaces, while posing a minimal threat to foundations and paving because of their fine roots.

Their mesmerizing combination of vibrancy and geometry enables palms to excel in the sheer glass and stucco of Miami, the rainforest riot of Costa Rica, the Mediterranean stateliness of Rome, the austerity of desert oases and even the Pacific-rim mists of Vancouver. Wherever palms — from miniatures to 100-foot colossi — can be grown, garden designers are opening their senses to them.

Above left: A skyward view of a *Pseudophoenix* species at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, captures fruit and swollen trunk. Palms attract interest whether viewed from below, lit at night, shadowed on the ground, silhouetted against sky or reflected in water. **Below left:** Trios of *Veitchia* palms frame a gathering spot. **Opposite:** A pair of *Phoenix* palms plays their classic symmetrical role in this update of the Persian paradise garden designed by Sanchez & Maddux in Palm Beach.

TOP TO BOTTOM: CHELSEA STICKEL; LEE ANNE WHITE, RIGHT PAGE: RICHARD FELBER

sourcebook

FRESH (p. 15)

Organic Matters (p. 18)
Furniture by Roost
Grove Rectangular Dining Table, $1,495
Showroom: Arte de Mexico,
North Hollywood, CA
818-769-5090, arteshowrooms.com

SWATCH WATCH (p. 30)

Landscape Design by Vision Horticulture Inc.
Nakomis, FL
941-488-8907
visionhorticulture.com

GARDEN GOURMET (p. 32)

***The New-Wave Mai Tai: New Twist on an Old Favorite* (Watermark Publishing)**
By Cheryl Chee Tsutsumi
$15.95 at book retailers or bookshawaii.net

BLISSED OUT (p. 54)

COMO Shambhala Estate, Bali
62-361-978-888, cse.como.bz
Doubles start at $300
COMO Shambhala Massage; 60 or 90 minutes, $60 or $90

Blancaneaux Lodge, Belize
800-746-3743, blancaneaux.com
Doubles from $280, includes breakfast
Oriental Prelude Treatment;
30 minutes, $60

Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
662-236-7777, shangri-la.com
Doubles from $205
Himalayan Harmony with Healing Stone Massage; 2 and a half hours, $176

Mandarin Oriental, Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai Thailand
665-388-8888, mandarinoriental.com
Doubles from $480
Lanna Massage; 80 minutes, $120

Hakone-Ginyu, Japan
81-460-82-3355,
hakoneginyu.co.jp
Doubles from $645, including dinner and breakfast
Ginyu-Spa Original Oil Massage;
60 or 90 minutes, $150 or $190

Lake Austin Spa Resort, Texas
800-847-5637, lakeaustin.com
Double room for three nights, including meals and activities (spa and salon services extra): $3,110
Gifts of Our Garden; 100 minutes, $315

Raffles Resort Canouan Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
866-589-2450, rafflescanouan.com
Doubles from $850, including breakfast
AmritaJourneys' Couples Wellness;
3 hours, $803

The Sentosa Resort & Spa, Singapore
656-275-0331, or through Small Luxury Hotels of the World at 800-525-4800,
thesentosa.com
Doubles from $212. Singapore Flower Ritual; single $205 or couple $385

Frégate Island Private, Seychelles
fregate.com
Doubles from $3,400 per night, includes all meals

Discovery at Marigot Bay, St. Lucia
758-458-5300, discoverystlucia.com
Doubles start at $440
Chocolate Immersion, $193

EDITOR'S NOTE: All prices correct at press time but are subject to change. Foreign prices have been converted to U.S. dollars.

READING PALMS (p. 64)

There are many sources for palm trees. In some areas of the country, even the big-box stores have a good selection to choose from. Below is a sampling of nurseries, including mail-order options:

The Banana Tree
Easton, PA
610-253-9589
banana-tree.com
(seeds, mail-order)

Cistus Nursery
Sauvie Island, OR
503-621-2233
cistus.com
(on-site and mail-order)

Flora Grubb Gardens
San Francisco, CA
415-626-7256
floragrubb.com
(on-site)

Floribunda Palms and Exotics
Mountain View, HI
808-966-8003
floribundapalms.com
(on-site)

Golden Gate Palms and Exotics
Point Richmond, CA
925-325-7256
Goldengatepalms.com
(on-site)

JD Andersen Nursery
Fallbrook, CA
760-723-2907
jdandersen.com
(on-site and mail-order)

Palm Island Nursery Outlet
Santa Rosa, CA
707-585-8100
palmislandnursery.com
(on-site)

Paradise Palm Co.
Moultrie, GA
866-876-2945
paradisepalmco.com
(mail-order)

A Quality Plant
Ruskin, FL
866-998-9393
aqualityplant.com
(mail-order)

Rancho Soledad Nurseries
Rancho Santa Fe, CA
858-756-3717
ranchosoledad.com
(on-site)

Rarepalmseeds.com
Munich, Germany
49-89-1577902
rarepalmseeds.com
(seeds, mail-order)

Yucco Do Nursery
Hempstead, TX
979-826-4580
yuccado.com
(mail-order)

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ART ACCENTS/ANTIQUES 900

1. **Allison's Garden.** Allison designs fountains and sculptures using modern materials, such as stainless steel and acrylic.
2. **ASG Glass, Inc.** Tumbled glass chips and nuggets for mulch, flower beds, fire pits, and landscaping. 100% recycled.
3. **Birth of Venus.** Contemporary cast stone sculptures for home, office, and garden.
4. **Duracraft.** Manufacturer of commercial grade fiberglass planters with genuine metal finishes. Frost proof and UV resistant
5. **Haddonstone USA.** Cast stone, architectural cast stone and cast stone garden ornaments including balustrading, columns, porticos, door surrounds, steps...
6. **Kenneth Lynch & Sons.** An Industry leader in providing site furnishings including statuary and fountains in cast stone, lead and bronze, weathervanes, sundials, park benches
7. **Rachel Tribble.** Original Paintings, limited edition goclee prints and commissioned work.
8. **Tuscan Imports Inc.** Importer of handmade Italian terracotta and lightweight poly planters.

CONSERVATORIES/STRUCTURES 901

9. **Clayton Hill Greenhouses.** We build the highest quality custom greenhouses and conservatories around, we stand behind everything we sell and install.
10. **HSP Garden Buildings.** HSP Garden Buildings Ltd design, manufacture and install high quality garden structures.
11. **LatticeStix.** Architectural lattice in more than 70 patterns for fences, trellis, screens, and accents.
12. **Tanglewood Conservatories.** Each traditionally-inspired Palm House, Conservatory and Antique-Style Greenhouse is an artful expression of both form and function.

DECKING/PAVERS/TILE 902

13. **Belgard.** Belgard® Hardscapes - distinctive pavers for unique patio, walkway, driveway and retaining wall designs.
14. **Eldorado Stone.** Eldorado Stone has perfected the creation of "The Most Believable Architectural Stone Veneer in the World"™.
15. **Hanover Architectural Products.** Manufacturers of concrete unit pavers for architectural commercial and residential on-grade and roof applications.
16. **Hartstone Tile.** Makers of handcrafted concrete tiles.
17. **Millstones.com.** Millstones and Syrup Kettles. Authentic, Genuine, Old. 100 plus inventory in range of sizes for 20" to 60" in diameter.
18. **Stepstone Inc.** Elegant precast concrete pavers for landscape and roof applications.

HOME FURNISHINGS 904

19. **Archie's Island Furniture.** Premium hardwood Adirondack Chairs, benches, rocking chairs and porch swings finished with highest quality, marine enamel paints.
20. **Charleston Gardens.** Features an extensive collection of classic furnishings and accents for the garden; provides secure online shopping.
21. **JANUS et Cie.** We offer the best in lifestyle furnishings, each piece a superior example of design and craftsmanship. The best furniture to sun in, dine on, or simply look at ... indoors or out™
22. **Summer Classics.** A manufacturer of fine garden furnishings and fireside accessories, which was founded on the principle of truly classic design.

OUTDOOR KITCHEN/BBQ 905

23. **Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet.** Designers and manufacturers of professional grade stainless steel gourmet grills and kitchens for outdoor living.

PLANT & GARDEN PRODUCTS 906

24. **Bartlett Tree Expert.** For all your tree and shrub care needs, call the experts.
25. **Capital Garden Products, Ltd.** Decorative fiberglass planters for homes, gardens, hotels and public buildings. Stocked items and custom design solutions.
26. **David Austin Roses.** These roses combine the forms and fragrances of old roses with the repeat flowering of modern roses.
27. **Oakes Daylillies.** Depend on us for something special, You'll be amazed at the range of colors, sizes and shapes available!
28. **Schreiner's Iris Gardens.** Incredible Iris in hundreds of sizes and colors. Full color catalog includes bargain Iris collections.
29. **White Flower Farm.** At White Flower Farm, you'll find the largest Amaryllis bulbs and the best selection anywhere in an array of attractive presentations.

groundbreaker

LOTA DE MACEDO SOARES

The most important Modernist you've never heard of

STORY BY VICKIE KARP

Thanks in part to a best-selling novel and a forthcoming film based on the book, the late Brazilian iconoclast Lota de Macedo Soares (below) is poised for recognition. Essential to her long-overdue credit is Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo Park (left), a project she envisioned and oversaw during the last 10 years of her life.

LEFT TO RIGHT: CASSIO VASCONCELLOS/SAMBAPHOTO; COURTESY VASSAR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

WHEN NEW YORK CITY'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S director Monroe Wheeler wanted to dish about the international art scene in the 1950s, as it slouched toward the minimalism of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Philip Johnson and Jasper Johns, he had drinks with Maria Carlotta (Lota) Costellat de Macedo Soares when she breezed into town. When Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet Elizabeth Bishop stopped in the port of Santos, Brazil, at the beginning of a planned trip around the world, she fell in love with Lota and stayed with her for the next 10 years. In his memoirs, the sculptor Alexander Calder called Lota, daughter of the Brazilian elite and a self-taught urban planner, that wonderful woman.

A cannonball of fierce determination — whether speeding along rutted roads in her Jaguar convertible or pontificating on a balcony overlooking the Copacabana with then-Governor Carlos Lacerda about how to run his state and save his cities and coastlines — Lota was the brains behind the dream team of landscape designers and architects who created one of the most prominent landscape-design projects in Brazilian history, Rio de Janeiro's world-famous 300-plus-acre Flamengo Park. There she turned mud into beaches, a garbage dump into a space with a pickup soccer field and puppet theaters, roadways into roofs for an underground pedestrian tunnel, and an urban lot into an expanse of lush greenery. No project brought her more acclaim, or heartbreak.

The story of Lota de Macedo Soares' life and work is the subject of a best-selling Brazilian book, *Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares,* written by

The Cultural Landscape Foundation

TEAMING UP TO SAVE

GREAT PLACES DESIGNED BY

Shapers of the American Landscape

In fall 2009,

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) and the University of Virginia Press will publish **Shaping the American Landscape: New Profiles From the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project.** In celebration, this year's *Landslide* will place a spotlight on great American places, by seminal and regionally influential landscape architects and designers, that are threatened with change.

2009 LANDSLIDE

Call for Nominations

Nominate or learn more by visiting

www.tclf.org/landslide

Deadline: March 31, 2009

Picturesque parks and cemeteries, Colonial and Modern gardens, pleasure drives and parkways, campus landscapes and fairgrounds, plazas and playgrounds — these diverse landscapes collectively represent key benchmarks in our nation's origins; they've helped shape the American landscape. This year's *Landslide* initiative will tell the stories of these places, the individuals who created them and the groups championing their survival...the *Shapers of the American Landscape*.

TCLF and *Garden Design* magazine are again teaming up with this 2008 *Landslide* Call for Nominations: *Shapers of the American Landscape*. TCLF is the only not-for-profit foundation in America dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of the important legacy of our cultural landscapes and helping to save them for the future. Since its inception in 2003, the *Landslide* initiative has spotlighted more than 100 significant at-risk parks, gardens and working landscapes. This year's theme will again do so by calling attention to the places that embody our shared landscape heritage. And for the third consecutive year, the selected sites will be featured in commissioned photography curated by George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film.

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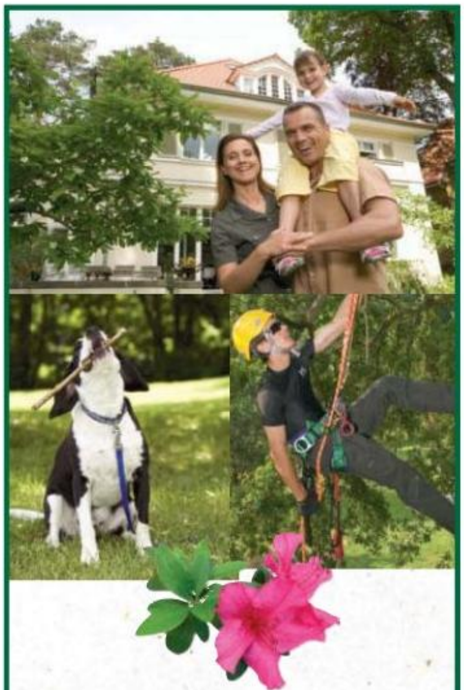
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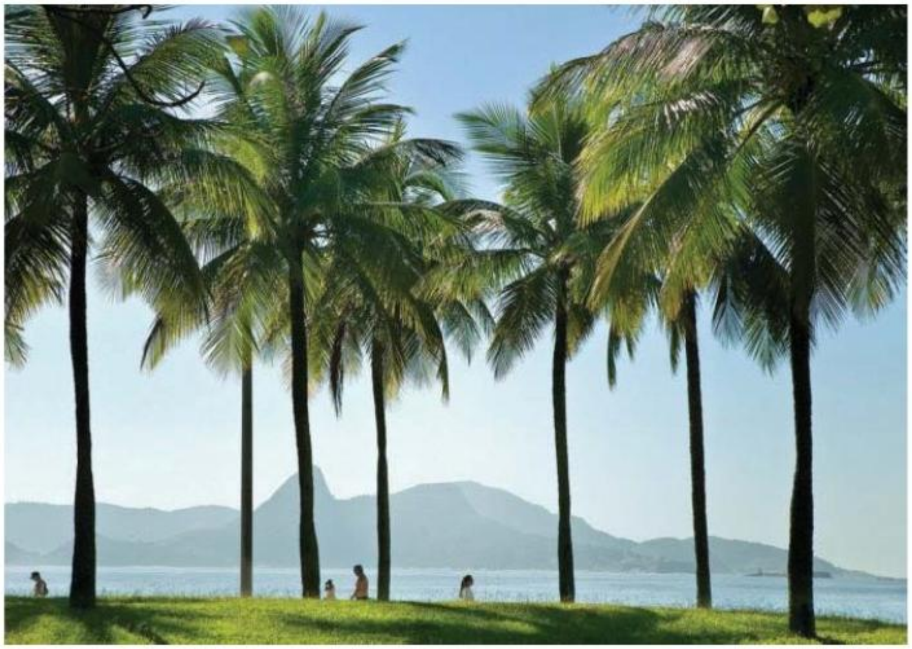

In 1950s Rio de Janeiro, Lota de Macedo Soares envisioned Guanabarra Bay (above) as an elegant and accessible public space that combined native beauty and architectural genius.

JOSON/GETTY IMAGES

Carmen Oliveira and translated into English by Neil K. Besner. Brazilian director Bruno Barreto is currently working on a screenplay based on the book. The film would bring to life this diminutive woman, who lived in a male-dominated place and time, who liked fast cars and natural wonders, and who wouldn't back down for Mother Nature or human nature, no matter what the cost. It will surely be one of the first films to tell the intimate story of a self-trained architect and landscape designer.

A large part of the book centers on the life she shared with poet Elizabeth Bishop and their remarkable house in the mountains above Petrópolis, located inland from Rio. There, in the middle of the Atlantic Rainforest, Lota commissioned architect Sérgio Bernardes to build what Bishop called a house in a "private cloud," a see-through house made of glass walls, which allowed exterior terrains to take center stage. In addition to the house, Lota built Bishop a writing-studio tower beside a mountain made of magnetic rock that regularly attracted great daggers of lightning during the rainy season, to the delight of their guests. She kept native flowering trees such as *Tibouchina granulosa*, *Mimosa scabrella* and *Brunfelsia pauciflora*, and was proud of her native, not cultivated, bromeliads and orchids. Petrópolis is also where Lota experimented and became an early proponent of many of the theories we take for granted today for the greening of urban environments, including organic gardening and silviculture (the art and science of controlling the quality and quantity of new- and old-growth forests).

Back in Rio de Janeiro, the story of Flamengo Park, according to Oliveira, began as a wish. When Lota's childhood friend Carlos Lacerda became governor of the area, including Rio de Janeiro, he asked her what part she wanted to play in the transformation of the country. In response, she looked out at the vast wasteland of Rio's coastline beyond his balcony and said, "Give me this."

At first, the project to transform the landscape into a visionary public space was simply called the *Aterro*, or landfill. Officially, Lota was its unpaid supervisor. She brought to the Aterro an unprecedented assemblage of top specialists who would become known as the Work Group. It included her friend Roberto Burle Marx, who would carry out elaborate plans for the park's early foray into what later became known as Tropical Modernism — spare geometries of native plantings, woods, rock and terrain. Other marquee names were key architect Affonso Reidy, who died before completion of the project; Ameri-

can outdoor-lighting expert Richard Kelly, renowned at the time for his illumination of the new Lincoln Center in New York City and who was tasked, according to Lota, to keep the night lights in the park from looking like "an appalling pile of toothpicks" and make the evenings feel as if they were perennially lit by full moonlight; recreational-space experts; monument sculptors; and pugnaciously devoted engineers to fight the rampant bureaucrats and traditionalists of Brazil's government.

The Work Group fought fiercely for its beliefs and also for control, and Lota was not spared by any of them, no matter their previous relationship. She battled daily, sometimes hourly and through the night, with government officials about hydraulics, a traffic cloverleaf, park facilities and parking lots, even whether or not to use grass and seesaws, and she refused to back down as authorities continually placed the needs of cars before pedestrians, retaining walls before playgrounds, and garish military monuments in the way of the views of the bay. When it came time to decide if Lota should be appointed director of a foundation to secure the future of the park, even prominent members of her work team were against her appointment. "Lota," Burle Marx wrote in a scathing and very public editorial, "I detest your despotism." In the end, it is not de Macedo Soares' name most famously associated with Flamengo Park, but rather Burle Marx's.

What led Lota to fight so hard for a vision of green public space in the heart of Rio de Janeiro, year after year and at such personal cost? Did the harsh realities of the Flamengo Park project and her tempestuous relationship with Elizabeth Bishop contribute to her suicide in 1967? Much of Lota's personal correspondence was destroyed after her death, and many of the answers can never be fully known.

One thing is certain: Flamengo Park in Rio, now a world-renowned example of "the international style" in public space, and her house in the clouds in Petrópolis, now considered of historic importance and a must-see for garden designers worldwide, will surely be part of the story when the life of this little-known groundbreaker comes to the big screen.

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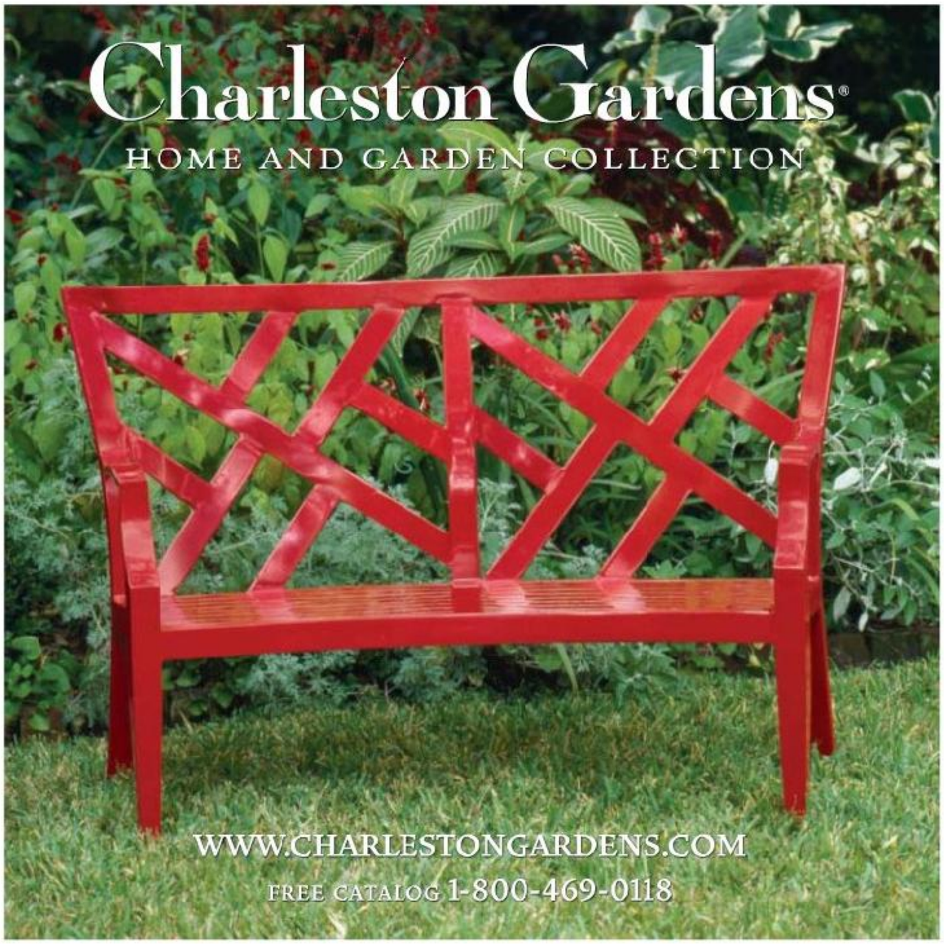
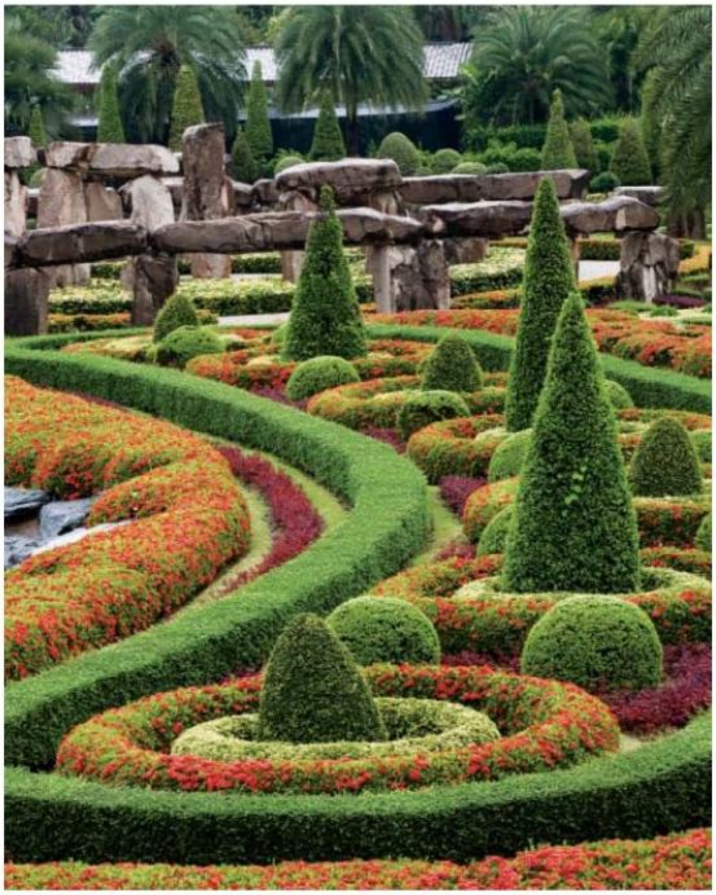


DREAM REALIZED

A garden in Thailand brings imagination to life

STORY BY PAULA DE LA CRUZ



Views of Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden in Thailand border on the surreal, juxtaposing tributes to famous sites such as Versailles and Stonehenge (left) with brightly colored parterres and fanciful design like mushroom-shaped fragrant water jasmine trees (below).

IN THE LUSH TROPICS OF THAILAND NEAR THE TOWN OF Pattaya, about two hours from the bustle of Bangkok, lies a fantasyland, a botanical garden like no other. Called Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden, its psychedelic medley of towering temples, whimsical topiary and mythical sculptures, and the bright hues of crimson hoyas, orange cannas and hot-pink *Cattleya* orchids make it more *Willy Wonka* than *The King and I*. Now a must-see location in Southeast Asia with a definite Thai twist, this labor of love is actually the inspired distillation of great landscapes from around the world.

Occupying 600 acres, Nong Nooch was originally intended to be a fruit and coconut orchard. Its owners, Mr. Pisit and his wife Nongnooch Tansacha — from whom the location takes its name — bought the land in 1954. But Mrs. Nongnooch changed her mind about the property's focus after traveling the world visiting gardens. She returned to Thailand intent on turning their land into a paradise of tropical plants. The initial goal of the garden was botanical conservation, but it was also transformed into a tourist attraction, opening to the public in 1980. It now includes all the amenities of a resort, complete with a variety of lodgings such as Thai-style houses, restaurants, and daily elephant shows and cultural performances.

Though Thai gardens are often hard to define since they rely heavily on Japanese, Chinese and European styles, they generally fall into three categories: gardens for Buddhist monasteries, royal palaces and private homes. Monastery gardens feature rocks, naturalistic ponds and frangipani trees, whereas palace gardens draw their inspiration from squared Chinese royal courtyards, stone-paved with a few flowering trees. Nong Nooch pulls from all of these traditions, adding many other elements too, from a zoo to a butterfly house to lakes large enough for swan-boat rides. But it is also unabashedly a garden of folly. You might do a double take at the replica of Stonehenge at the center of an *Alice in Wonderland* arrangement of geometric shrubbery overlooked by a row of Thai temples, or a grove of fragrant water jasmine (*Wrightia religiosa*) pruned into giant mushrooms. One of the fascinating things about Nong Nooch is the tribute it pays to locations from around the world, homing in on what makes each

LEFT TO RIGHT: SHENVAL/ALAMY; PETER WIDMANN/ALAMY

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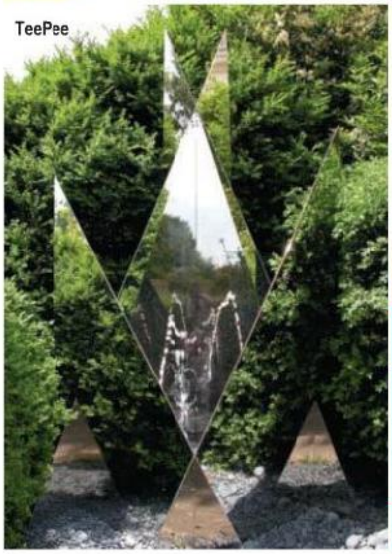
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one memorable, and playfully blending them with Thai traditions and style.

One thing that fascinated the Tansachas was parterre gardens. The land at Nong Nooch is relatively flat, and the garden was designed using hedges of different heights and colors that create volume and definition. But the flatness also makes it perfect for parterres, which have become one of the signature elements throughout the garden. When seen from above, the tightly clipped scrolls and shapes created with flowers and evergreen shrubs look like a fanciful carpet. An elevated steel walkway connecting the main areas of the garden allows for overseeing the parterres from a bird's-eye view. A far more adventurous option, though, is to climb onto an elephant attired in full regalia and sit on a *howdah*, a special riding chair, and imagine you are a Thai king or queen, the elephant's steady pace lulling you into a state of relaxation.

But if you'd rather think of yourself as French royalty, there's no better place to start than Nong Nooch's French Garden. Based on the gardens at Versailles, this garden is set out in a rectangle, though instead of elaborate green parterre embroidery, Nong Nooch's version is filled with bright colors and simple shapes. Cones, spheres and large circles of red, purple, lime and dark-green topiaries form striking contrasts, best appreciated from the Thai temples erected along the sides. A semicircular palisade of water jasmine with carved arches is a copy of one made of cypress at Villa Gamberaia in Tuscany.

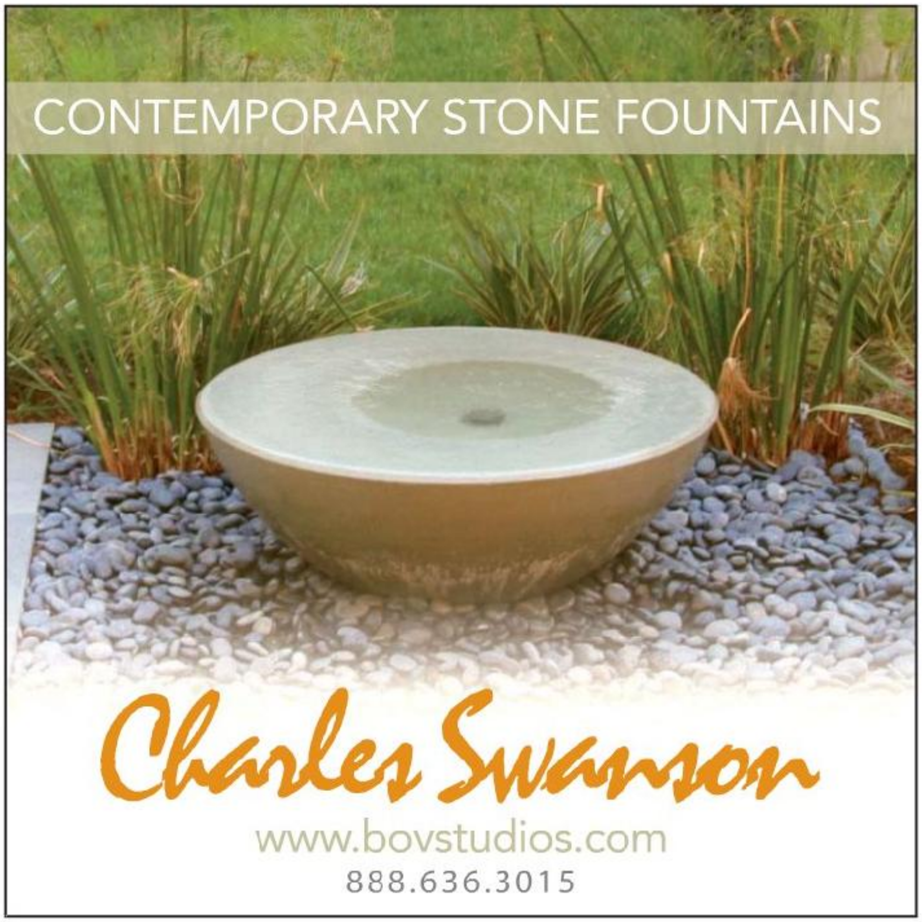
The Tansachas' passion for fountains is reflected in the European and Fountain Gardens, interpretations of Greco-Roman and Renaissance gardens, respectively. The European Style Gardens are neoclassical, adorned with statues resembling Greek gods and large terra-cotta vessels planted with cannas, alongside a stream filled with papyrus. The relatively long Fountain Garden has three rectangular pools with semicircular ends flanked by shallow steps. Conical green and magenta topiaries mingle like party guests dressed in shimmery silks. Alongside the pools is a vast lawn with the Granite Marbles Garden in its center. Blue-gray Bismarck palms with concentric arrangements of white, purple and lilac blossoms around them sit beside globe-size marble spheres, grouped

beneath massive purple-leaved topiaries in the shape of hearts.

Thais inherited their enthusiasm for topiaries from the Chinese, who traditionally created them for palace gardens. In Thailand, topiaries add a traditional element to contemporary designs. The art of topiary, called *mai dat* in Thai, was practiced first around the 13th century during the Sukhothai era. A common form of topiary in Thailand today takes the shape of an elephant, and you'll find a herd of them raised on their hind legs in Nong Nooch's Animal Topiary Garden. The garden also displays more-traditional Japanese pruning and vertical wavelike shapes, reminiscent of chess figures. This penchant for clipped trees and shrubs is what some refer to as "status gardens," because they have imported plants and show off the large number of gardeners a property owner employs to keep it in perfect condition.

But Nong Nooch is not just a pleasure garden, and it has continued with its early impetus to be a botanical garden with research stations and serious collections. In addition to impressive arrays of orchids, bromeliads, cactuses and ferns, Nong Nooch has one of the largest palm collections in the world, with 1,100 of the approximately 2,800 known species. In 1998, the International Palm Society held its biennial conference at Nong Nooch, and it will hold it in Thailand again in 2012. The rarest palms at Nong Nooch come from New Caledonia, a group of small islands in the South Pacific, some 900 miles east of Australia. The palm collection also includes small-sized rhapis palms — known by the Japanese name of *kansochiku* to collectors — which seldom exceed a foot in height. The garden also has one of the most extensive and diverse cycad collections, focusing on Southeast Asian, Tropical American and Central African species. The Cycad Specialist Group, which is part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission, has partnered with Nong Nooch to reproduce threatened cycads in cultivation.

Thailand has always been a country of tolerance, welcoming nearby and faraway cultures. Perhaps there is nowhere better to see this than in Nong Nooch, where gardens and fancies from around the globe come together in one place.



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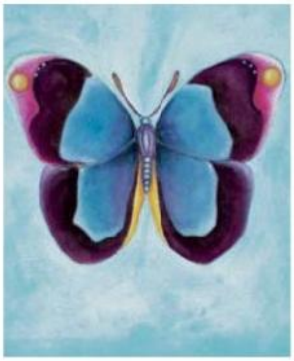

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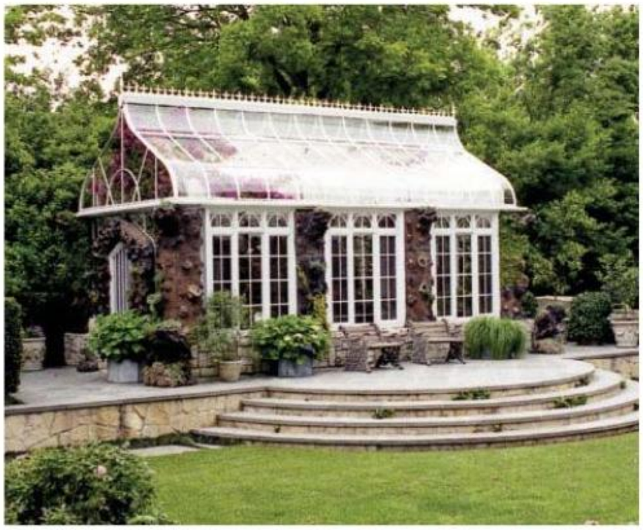

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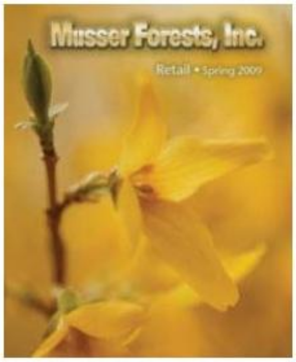

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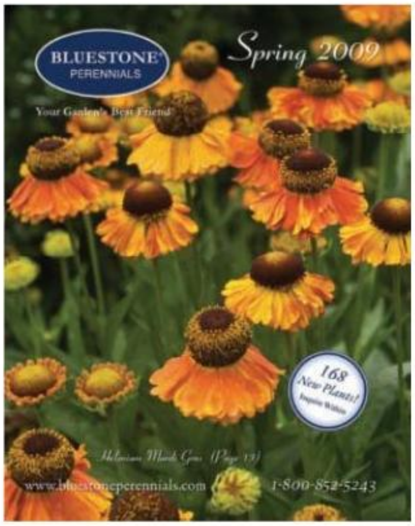

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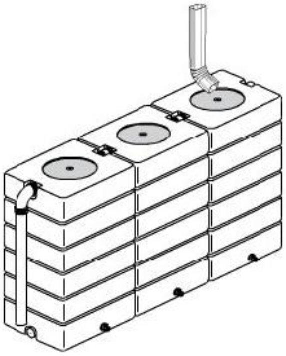

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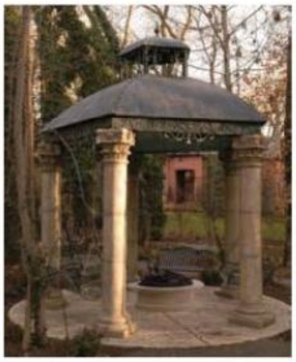

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on design

DAVID STARK: PURPOSEFUL WHIMSY

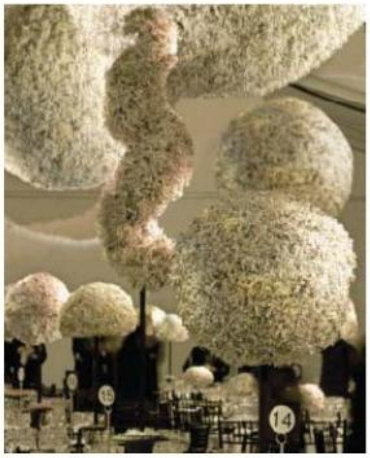
Tornadoes of sneakers, gazebos of colorful hand towels, topiaries of shredded tax returns — the ordinary becomes eye-popping in the hands of visionary event producer David Stark. Even when planning the most lavish gala, Stark thinks hard about social issues and sustainability. "I started out as a florist," Stark says. "You have a party, you have flowers, right? Then one day I woke up and thought, 'Why?'"
— Lisa Cregan

Q: There are many shades of green entertaining. Why is yours so different?
A: For the Robin Hood Foundation party last May, I asked, why can't the décor be about the people this charity serves, about the people in need? The program directors told us their clients needed basic things, like alarm clocks to get to job interviews on time. So, we built a pavilion with a wall of thousands of donated alarm clocks. Then Ralph Lauren sent over a wonderful color palette of towels, and we made a 28-foot-tall house out of shelves stacked with folded towels. Then we made a tornado of 3,000 pairs of shoes from Nike. After the event, everything went directly to the foundation's programs.

Q: Tell me about the party where recycled paper took the place of flowers.
A: It was for the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum awards dinner in 2007. We used shredded paper from the Cooper-Hewitt offices along with our own office's recycled paper and made giant topiaries and chandeliers. I love the idea that it was beautiful, but also that people could actually grasp how much waste we generate in a year.

Q: What comes first, the beauty or the meaning?
A: It's always about the double take. The people who attend these parties have seen everything. In fact, lots of times when it's a fundraiser, people know that flowers equal cash spent, and it's not appropriate.

Q: Do you still use flowers now and then?
A: I love, love, love working with poppies — the way the stems are curvy and skinny and their faces arch up to the sky. And I still think a woman's wedding should be her ultimate flower fantasy.



Event producer David Stark (right) blew away partygoers at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum's 2007 awards dinner in New York when he created topiaries and chandeliers out of 6,000 pounds of recycled shredded paper (above). What blows him away? Stark says it's the simple poppy (top).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MARIANNE MAJERUS; COURTESY DAVID STARK (2)

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